

The Cowl

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JANUARY 26, 2006

Protests erupt over *The Vagina Monologues*

BY MEGHAN K. WELSH '06
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

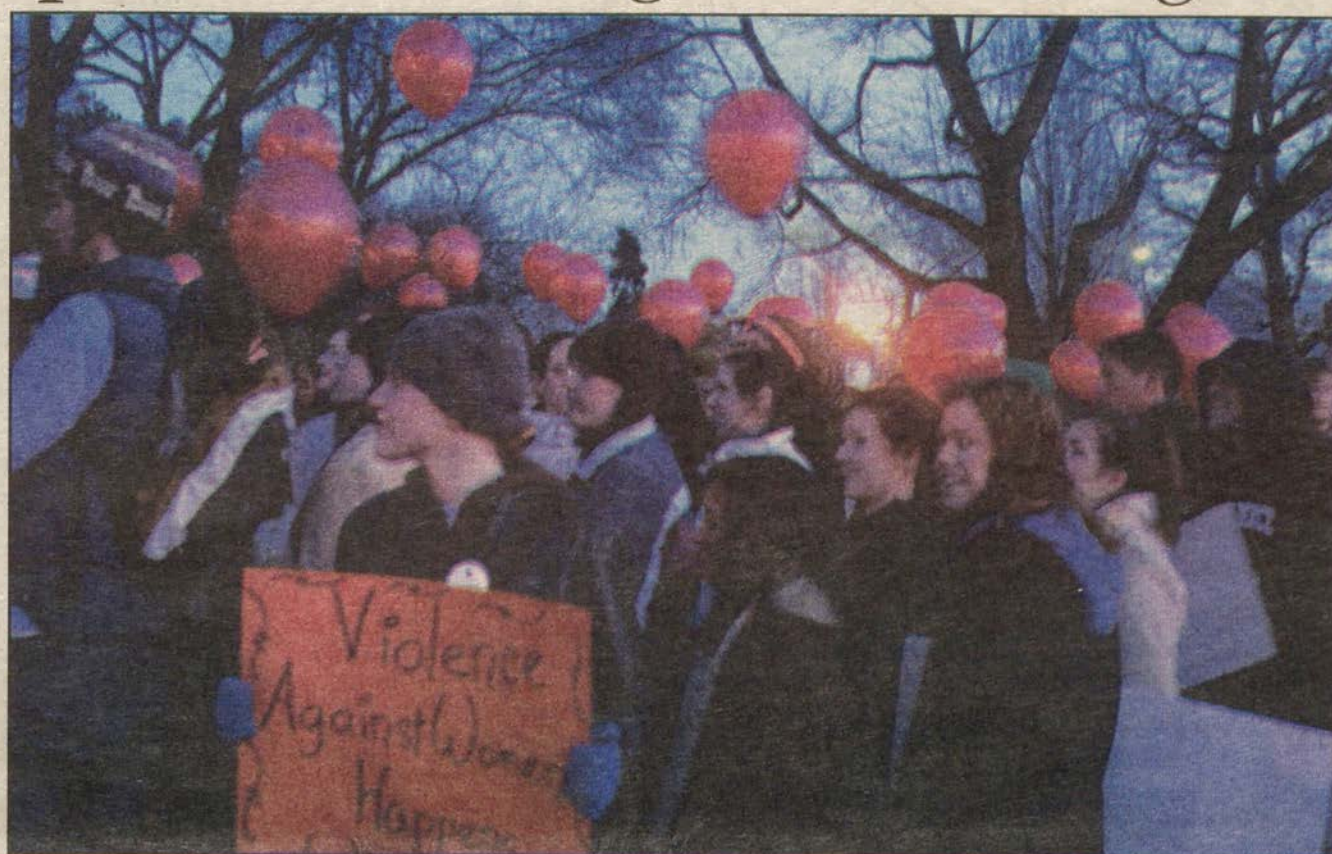
For the past four years, students at Providence College have staged sold-out productions of Eve Ensler's play *The Vagina Monologues* on campus without the support of the administration. Now, according to Providence College President Brian J. Shanley O.P., the curtain will not rise again this year.

In an e-mail sent out to members of the Providence College community last week, Father Shanley stated, "*The Vagina Monologues* is not an appropriate play to be performed on our campus. Therefore the college will prohibit the production of *The Vagina Monologues*."

Hearing the word "prohibit" was a bad sign for students who have already been working to plan this year's production, which was only a few weeks away. Erica Rioux '06, president of Women Will, was this year's coordinator of *The Vagina Monologues*.

Rioux was aware that Father Shanley was going to be faced with the decision to allow the performance to continue or not. Along with other students involved in the production, Rioux met with Father Shanley before the end of the fall semester to discuss the issue.

"After meeting with Father Shanley, I left his office with the impression that



MARY PELLETIER '09/The Cowl

Students gathered at the front gates of Providence College to protest against Father Shanley's recent decision to prohibit the production of *The Vagina Monologues* on campus. Some students say this prohibition is an attack on academic freedom, while others assert that Father Shanley has the right to stop the play.

The Vagina Monologues would go on like it had in past years, permitted to occur by the school but without their support," said Rioux. "He told me that he

wouldn't be any harder on us than Father Smith had been in the past."

In an interview on Friday, Father Shanley discussed many of his opinions

about performing *The Vagina Monologues* at PC in more detail. When asked to sum up his main reason for canceling

PROTESTS/Page 5

Not a prime time to visit some old clubs *Gambling ring in local bars' basements unearthed* *Photos on PT Web site not what you'd want to show Mom*

BY MALLARY JEAN TENORE '07
ASSOCIATE EDITOR IN CHIEF

While the bars near Providence College may have seemed quieter during winter break without their usual student showing, sounds of trouble were ringing loud and clear.

Following a 70-day investigation, state police, Providence police, and the FBI arrested 22 people on Jan. 5 for their involvement in a multi-million dollar illegal sports gambling ring that had been operating out of the basements of Prime Time Café, Danny's Place, and the Eagle Square Independent Club—commonly referred to as "Old's."

Among the 22 individuals arrested was Christian Iacobellis '06, a resident of 123 Pembroke Ave. who was charged with racketeering, organized criminal gambling, conspiracy, bookmaking, possession of marijuana with intent to deliver, and possession of a controlled substance. Iacobellis did not respond to requests for an interview.

"I don't think it's going to affect anything," said Nathan Limbach '06, when asked whether he thinks students will stop frequenting bars as a result of the crimes. "You don't go to the bars to gamble, you just go to drink."

Limbach was attending the first day of his winter session human biology class taught by Patrick Ewanchuk, assistant professor of biology, when police arrived and took Iacobellis into custody. "The class had just started and a couple minutes into the class a cop showed up. [Iacobellis] got up and was taken away," said Limbach.

Lt. John Leyden III, officer in charge of the state police intelligence organized crime unit, said state police do not have reason to believe that other students from Providence College or surrounding institutions played a role in the gambling operations.

"The men involved were very closely associated with the New England crime family," he said.

Leading the pack were mob associates Raymond "Scarface" Jenkins of

GAMBLING/Page 6

BY MEGAN COMERFORD '06
NEWS STAFF

Prime Time Café is a popular nighttime destination for many Providence College students.

What some patrons may not realize is that by frequenting the bar they are consenting to having photographs of them appear on Prime Time's Web site, www.primetimeprovidence.com.

The site includes photo albums for each school year beginning with 2002-2003 and an archive album with pictures dating back to 1997.

"There are some great pictures in the 'Bar Dancing' section," says the Web site, inviting visitors to look at photos, video clips, and audio clips.

The images that appear on Prime Time's Web site range from panoramas of the crowded bar to shots of individual patrons, including several Providence College students.

There is no law prohibiting the display of photographs on a Web page.

On Prime Time's Web site, people are shown drinking, dancing, and kissing, among other things.

"I don't think that [appearing on the Web site] is necessarily something I would be comfortable with," said Micaela Sheehan '06, "but pictures float around all over the Web without people giving permission on Webshots and such, so I can't say that they shouldn't be allowed to post them."

Sheehan, who was unaware that Prime Time had a Web site, thought that it would be "helpful" for the establishment to post a sign informing patrons that photographs of them taken in the bar may be used online.

Even with this information, Sheehan believes it would not "stop people from doing what they do [at Prime Time]."

Caroline Cruise '09, while she has never been to Prime Time, sees an issue with photos appearing on Web sites without the knowledge of those people pictured.

"I know if I did go I definitely wouldn't want pictures of me there on a

WEB SITE/Page 6

COMMENTARY

Our Commentary writers weigh in on the *Vagina Monologues* controversy.

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PORTFOLIO

Tiffany and Earl are back for another semester of answering students' questions and concerns.

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NEWS BRIEFS

PC receives \$5.2 million scholarship bequest

Providence College has recently received a gift of \$5.2 million for scholarship purposes to benefit needy and deserving students in the natural sciences, mathematics, or computer science. The funds were bequeathed to the college by Dr. Philip J. Whitcome '70, who died on Dec. 6, 2005.

The donation is the largest single gift designated for scholarships in the College's history.

A molecular biologist, Whitcome earned a bachelor of science degree in physics from Providence College. He attended the College as a member of the Experimental Honors Research Training Program supported by the National Institutes of Health. He later earned a master of business administration degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and received his doctorate in molecular biology from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

Whitcome most recently served as a

director and chairman of the board of Avigen, a San Francisco-based company that develops gene-based therapeutic products for the treatment of inherited and acquired diseases.

The recent scholarship gift is a continuation of Whitcome's commitment to the College. He previously established the Whitcome Family Scholarship Fund for Providence College students pursuing a major in the natural sciences. He also sponsored a stained glass window in the sanctuary of St. Dominic Chapel in honor of his late wife, Carla Witson

Whitcome.

In a statement released by the College, President Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P. said, "We are grateful that Dr. Whitcome, whose successful and influential career in the field of biotechnology began at Providence College, had the foresight to give future generations of deserving students the same opportunity he had to study here."

—Meghan Welch '06
Asst. News Editor

Campus Calendar for Jan. 27 to Feb. 2

Submit events at cowlnewsstaff@yahoo.com

27 Friday	28 Saturday	29 Sunday	30 Monday	31 Tuesday	2 Thursday
<p>4 p.m. "Friday's at Four" music concert in the Smith Center for the Arts.</p> <p>8 p.m. Senior Night in McPhail's.</p>	<p>8-11 p.m. PC After Hours' Ice Skating Night in Schneider Arena.</p> <p>9 p.m. "The Biltmore's" in McPhail's.</p>	<p>12-7 p.m. PC's College Bowl in the Slavin Center.</p>		<p>8-10 p.m. B.O.P. Coffeehouse in McPhail's.</p>	<p>4-5:30 p.m. Wellness Wednesdays: Health Education & Wellness in Slavin Center G01.</p>

FFE planning events for upcoming semester

BY MEGHAN E. WELCH '06
NEWS STAFF

Campbell's Soup has a program where people can collect soup labels and turn them in for educational equipment. The Home Depot has started Team Depot, an associate volunteer program. In the past few years, the importance of social responsibility has become increasingly evident to corporations, and many volunteer groups and foundations have been formed to include social responsibility in the corporate world. Now, the Future Friar Executives (FFE) are doing their part to help the outside community with their Community Relations committee.

Although FFE has had a community service component of its club in the past, it is only with the restructuring of the group this year that the Community Relations committee was formed. The committee is a combination of the former Public Relations and Community Service committees. According to Kerri Coletta '07, co-chair of the Community Relations committee, "the duty of the committee is to work with other colleges in the community, as well as doing our part to help others."

The committee already organized several community service events last semester, including a school-wide clothing drive for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Members of the committee collected clothes over the course of a month and donated the proceeds to the Salvation Army. "Our clothing drive resulted in the donation of about 180 shirts and

100 pairs of pants," said Patrick Duggan '08, co-chair of the Community Relations committee.

The committee also organized a community service project for all of the members of FFE. "During our annual Christmas dinner, we put together eight Christmas food baskets," said Coletta. "We donated them to the Church of God Shalom on Chad Brown to be distributed in the surrounding community."

There are even bigger plans in place for this semester. Not only is the committee putting together an FFE Relay for Life Team for the second year in a row, it is also organizing one of their largest events to date. On Feb. 17 at 6:00 p.m., the committee is holding a benefit concert in McPhail's. The concert will feature five local area bands, including The Invite, The Northwood, Leah Stargazing, Wake of Incarnation, and Astrea.

"The concert will raise money and awareness for AIDS in Africa," said Coletta. "All the proceeds will go to the Kenyan Project at the Miriam Hospital. This organization sends doctors to Kenya to help in the fight against AIDS, and members of the organization will be at the concert to give a brief presentation."

Stephen Esares '08, a Community Relations committee member, said the benefit concert was the event he was most looking forward to this semester. "I think it will be a great event," he said. "We're expecting a good turnout."

Coletta said she has high hopes for the concert. "I think that making the benefit concert an annual event would be a superb idea for the future, as it will permanently attach our name to something good," she said.



SUSIE LUSHER '07/The Cowl

Left to right: Katie Smoragiewicz '06, Beth Dowd '06, Tyler Doyle '06 and Trish Higgins '06 make up the Executive Board of Future Friar Executives. This club has been busy with many community service projects this year.

In addition to these community service events, the Community Relations committee is looking into networking events with other colleges. "The networking aspects of the group are important, because business is all about networking," said Coletta. "By working with other schools we are able to meet other students who will one day be our peers in the business world."

Members of the committee also see the important role community service is playing in the business world. "I think it's really important for business majors

to remember to give something back to the community," said Esares. "Especially because community service projects are becoming more important in the business world."

"This committee stresses the significance of being connected within the community in business," said Coletta. "Many of today's businesses have community relations departments and do charitable work. This is great preparation for students planning to work in business, as it helps them to realize other business activities."

Suite news—pavillion open for study

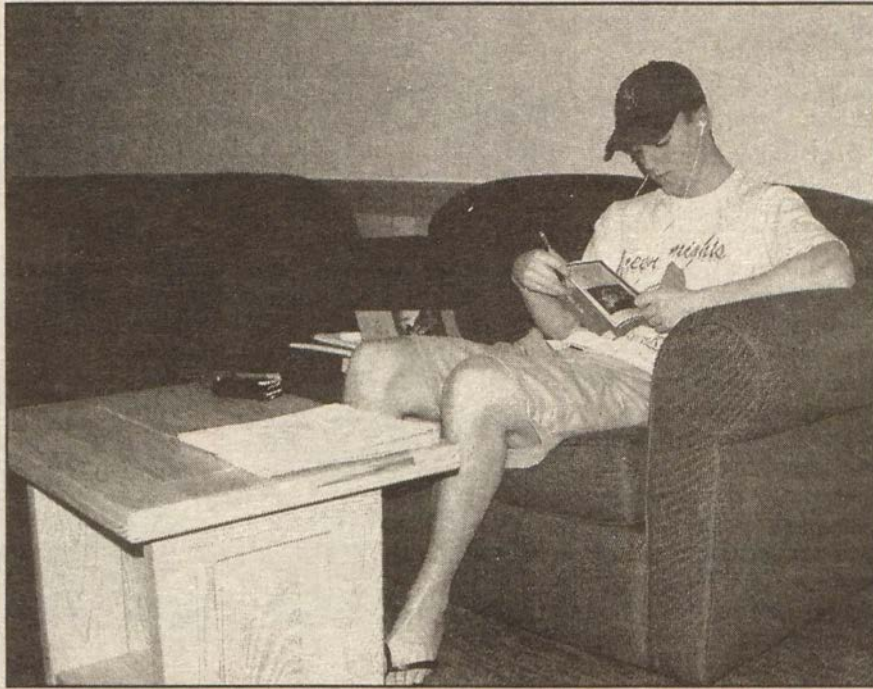
BY BETH FINAN '07
NEWS STAFF

The once-empty pavilion on the second floor of Suites Hall began bursting with signs of human life at the close of the fall semester, thanks in large part to the efforts of Junior Class President Dan Cullinane '07 and the other Class of 2007 officers. With 63 out of 72 rooms in Suites Hall being occupied by juniors, Cullinane felt that opening the pavilion "was very much our issue." After a great deal of research and meetings between Cullinane and members of the administration, the pavilion—which was closed due to vandalism that occurred during the 2004-05 school year—reopened during finals week and is to remain open for the duration of the school year.

Cullinane said the mission to open the Suites pavilion was a month-long process. First, the Class of 2007 officers submitted a proposal to reopen the lounge to Rev. J. Stuart McPhail, O.P., Vice President of Student Services. The proposal included the provisions that the second floor entrance would never be used as an entrance or exit and that the lounge would be staffed by a class officer between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and midnight on Sunday through Thursday. Father McPhail denied this proposal. He said that the room was never intended to be used as a study lounge, but rather to hold meetings and special events. He also said that the previous damage and the need for the room to be monitored also factored into his decision to reject the proposition.

"The pavilion took a terrible beating last year," said Father McPhail, who said there was about \$7,000 worth of damage at the mid-year mark.

After this initial setback, Cullinane said that the 2007 officers, along with help from the officers from the Class of 2008, conducted a survey of 135 Suites Hall residents. The results showed that 93 percent of the students surveyed would use the pavilion if it were to be



KEVIN TASSINI '06/The Cowl

Kevin Roe '07 studies in the Suites' pavillion, which was recently reopened for student use after petitioning from the officers of the Class of 2007.

opened as a study space, and 87 percent supported the use of cameras or the placement of a resident assistant in the pavilion in order to deter vandalism.

Besides overwhelming support among students for the reopening the pavilion, Cullinane said that records show that, despite being closed to students, the space was not being used frequently for special events. In fact, it was only used 15 times for events and groups.

Dr. Steven A. Sears, dean of residence life, said that this fact, along with student demand for more study space, was a main factor in the decision to reopen the pavilion. "It is a beautiful space, and no one was in it, so why not use it?" he said.

Cullinane said that the lack of use raised the question of whether the school was a college for students or a college for special events. With the reopening of the pavilion, however, he said, "The new administration has answered that question."

Cullinane also cited the lack of adequate study space in Suites Hall as another reason why the pavilion should be open. He said that although the building has more square footage of study space than any residence hall, the small study rooms on each floor have harsh lighting and working in them becomes "awkward" if there are more than two people inside.

Armed with the results of the student surveys and the records of the reservations, but already having been rejected by Father McPhail, Cullinane e-mailed Rev. Brian Shanley, O.P., president of Providence College, who referred him to Rev. Kenneth Sicard, O.P., executive vice president and treasurer. After a meeting with Father Sicard, Cullinane received word that the pavilion was to be opened for student use immediately. During a cabinet meeting over the semester break, it was decided that the pavilion would remain open permanently.

To prevent vandalism of the space

while it is open, Sears said that resident assistants have been instructed to be vigilant and if damage does occur, the area will be locked down to assess the situation. He also said that the card access currently located inside the pavilion near the door leading into the second floor will be moved outside of the pavilion so that only Suites Hall residents will have access.

Sears said that the main door will not be open, except in cases of emergencies because "people will keep getting interrupted."

Cullinane was thrilled with the outcome. "I feel really good about [the opening of the pavilion]," he said. "I hope it paves the way for how Student Congress will operate: getting student body input and not accepting 'no' for an answer if you know you are right."

Despite his initial reservations about opening the pavilion, Father McPhail said, "The amount of damage in the Suites has gone down substantially [to about \$2500], and it is not anywhere near the same situation this year as it was last year." He also said that the Office of Residence Life is always very "conscientious" and does a very good job of protecting the buildings from damage.

Cullinane applauded members of the administration for their willingness to work with the students.

"The administration really listened to what the student body had to say," he said, adding that Sears went out of his way to ensure that more tables and chairs were brought to the lounge after students started filing in to study.

"We are all a community here, and we want to listen to students," Sears said.

Suites Hall residents also reacted positively to the reopening of the pavilion.

Murray Scudder '07, who has studied in the pavilion about three times since it reopened last semester, said, "I'm happy it's open because the little rooms get too hot and there's not much room in them."

"It's smart to finally have it open," Mary Scully '07 said. "It's a nice, quiet place to come to, especially in the winter."

Departments add class—and classes—to PC

BY RICHARD KURKER '09
NEWS STAFF

After a long winter break, the spring semester courses are slowly building up speed as the first full week of school ends. Although much has stayed the same on campus, there have been plenty of changes, one of which is the addition of several new courses to the wide variety of classes that already exists at Providence College. Numerous departments are offering a di-

verse selection of recently introduced courses, in hope that all students will find the classes appealing.

Take the Department of English, for instance. This semester, Raphael Shargel, assistant professor of English, is offering a new course entitled "Film Noir" (ENG 201) which focuses on the dark side of American culture as portrayed in Hollywood films from the '40s and '50s. According to Shargel, the films examined in the course often involve "a respectable and naïve figure who is drawn into a world of corruption and

deceit." By developing the course in conjunction with both the English department and the Department of Theater, Dance, and Film, Shargel said he hopes that it can be used for the new film minor.

Another new course offered in the English Department is "Law and Literature" (ENG 440-001) taught by Dr. John T. Scanlan, professor of English. This course was suggested to Scanlan by a former student, Erin Pearce '05. With the help of Dr. Charles Duffy, professor of English, and Elizabeth Bridgman, as-

sistant professor of English, he put together a curriculum that focused on the interdisciplinary relation between literature and the law.

This semester, the class reached its maximum size of 25 students, and Scanlan was proud to say they are "very energetic." Scanlan said he hopes to bring his class on a trip to Washington, D.C., to hear some oral arguments in the U.S. Supreme Court, and also said he plans to bring in several guest speakers. This course will investigate law through

CLASS/Page 6

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TIME: 6:00 pm

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WHEN: Wednesday, February 1st
WHERE: Library 104B
TIME: 3:30 pm

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Snow Removal Policy

During and after significant snow storms, students will be required to move their cars to allow for snow removal.



After approximately two hours students will move their cars back into their respective lots.

The Weather Advisory Information Line can be reached by dialing ext. 1012.

Congress hopes to spring forward this spring

BY CHRIS DONNELLY '08
NEWS STAFF

Student Congress held its first meeting of the new year Tuesday to discuss its plans for the spring semester. Congress met Tuesday for their first meeting of the

STUDENT CONGRESS

new year. Members said they hope to build off last semester which in Executive Board President Matt Weber's '06 opinion was very successful. "Last semester was a very positive first step for the new Congress," he said. Congress also met during the holiday break to discuss upcoming plans for this semester.

The first issue Congress addressed was club reform. Under the current system potential clubs are submitted to Congress for approval. Once approved, the clubs then will receive school funding. An increase in the number of clubs spreads thin the funds the College allocates for clubs and organizations.

The proposed reform will mandate that a newly approved club must be active for two years before being eligible to receive funding. After the two years, a club is still not guaranteed a piece of the pie, but must submit a proposal for funding. No existing club will be affected by this change unless it becomes inactive. In that case, a reactivated club must follow the same procedure as a new one.

"There has been zero club reform for years and it is time to fix the issue," said Weber before the Congress meeting. Although Congress has not voted on the reform, Weber said he expects it to pass.

Congress also resolved to further its connection with those it represents by focusing on student life issues. Last semester, Congress—the Class of 2007 spe-



MARY PELLETIER '09/The Cowl

Dr. William Hudson, center, Core Curriculum Review Committee chairman and professor of political science, spoke at the Student Congress meeting Tuesday. Dr. Hudson discussed the committee's plans to revamp the core curriculum at Providence College.

cifically—successfully campaigned for the opening of the Suites lounge for students. During the meeting, Ryan Donnelly '08, Class of 2008 president, announced that Congress was also successful in lobbying for the installation of a coffee machine in the library.

Dr. Russell Bailey, library director, who was one of the administration members to approve the idea said he hopes to have the machine put in before the end of the semester. According to Bailey, President Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P. was concerned about disturbing the neatness of the library, as was former president Rev. Phillip A. Smith, O.P.; nevertheless

Father Shanley decided to approve the idea. The coffee machine will provide an assortment of coffee options, and will work much like the machine in the office of admissions. The price of the coffee will mostly likely be charged on students' PC cards.

"If we had a coffee machine in the library, it would be really beneficial in doing our reading instead of having to go to Slavin to get coffee," said Alli Frechette '08.

In addition to student life changes, Student Congress will continue to plan and organize events for students, such as Senior Night, Junior Night, the Freshman

Snowball, and the Sophomore Outdoor Ball.

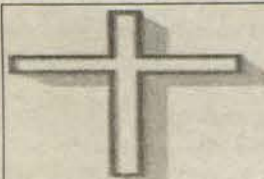
The meeting was also used to announce the appointment of executive board vice president Amy Baker '07 to a committee to review PC's core curriculum. The Core Curriculum Review Committee chairman, Dr. William Hudson, professor of the political science, spoke briefly in front of Congress during Tuesday's meeting to address the aims of the committee. "We want to create the opportunity for all parts of the Providence College community to participate," said Hudson.

Hudson discussed the merits of a foreign language requirement are being considered in the curriculum review. The Western Civilization program will not be axed, as Father Shanley, who called for the committee, has already stated his support of it.

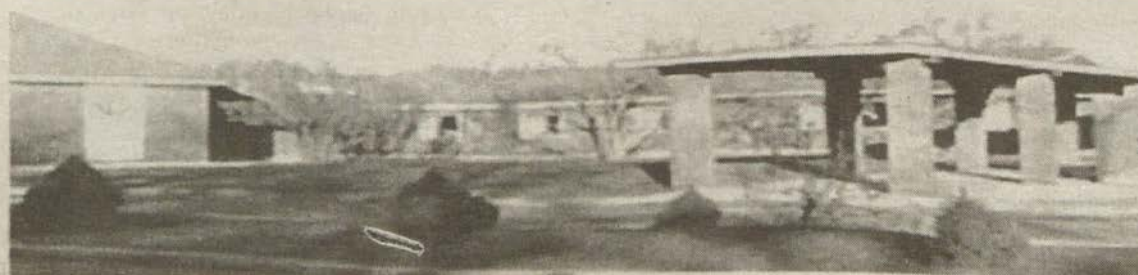
Dr. Hudson expressed the importance of the committee by mentioning the last time there was a significant change to the core was after a committee proposal in 1981. Any changes that do come as a result of this committee would not affect the 50 hours of core curriculum required for current students, according to Hudson.

"I understand this is the most impactful thing I will ever do for PC," said Baker, who said she hopes to echo the will of the student body.

The committee is comprised of nine individuals, seven faculty members, and two students. The other committee members are Dr. Margaret Manchester professor of history; Dr. Stephen Lynch professor of English; Dr. Paul Maloney, professor of finance; Dr. Susan McCarthy, professor of political science; Dr. Kathleen Cornely, professor of chemistry; Rev. Mark D. Nowell, O.P., dean of undergraduate studies and professor of biology; and Brooke Huminksi '07.



Discerning the Priesthood?



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Bishop Thomas Tobin invites all PC men to attend a retreat for those discerning the priesthood on **Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2006** at the Seminary of Our Lady of Providence

For questions or information call:

Fr. Michael J. Najim
Assistant Vocation Director

Office of Vocations
831-8011

www.catholicpriest.com

Protests: Students voice opinions over cancelled play

continued from front page

the performance, he said, "The depiction of female sexuality in *The Vagina Monologues* is at odds with the view of sexuality that the Roman Catholic Church promotes."

Father Shanley said that though he felt very strongly about his position, he went through a lengthy process of talking to students and other members of the College community to educate himself on the play. He said he also prayed to God for guidance to do what is right.

"I knew walking into this position that every year there had been an uproar," he said. "I've been thinking about this since I got the job and mulling it over since day one. In the process, I've talked to a lot of people and listened to their views."

Despite talking to a variety of people before making his decision, Father Shanley said he did not base his decision on what other Catholic colleges like Providence College had decided to do concerning the controversial play.

"Violence against women is not stopping, so why should *The Vagina Monologues*?"

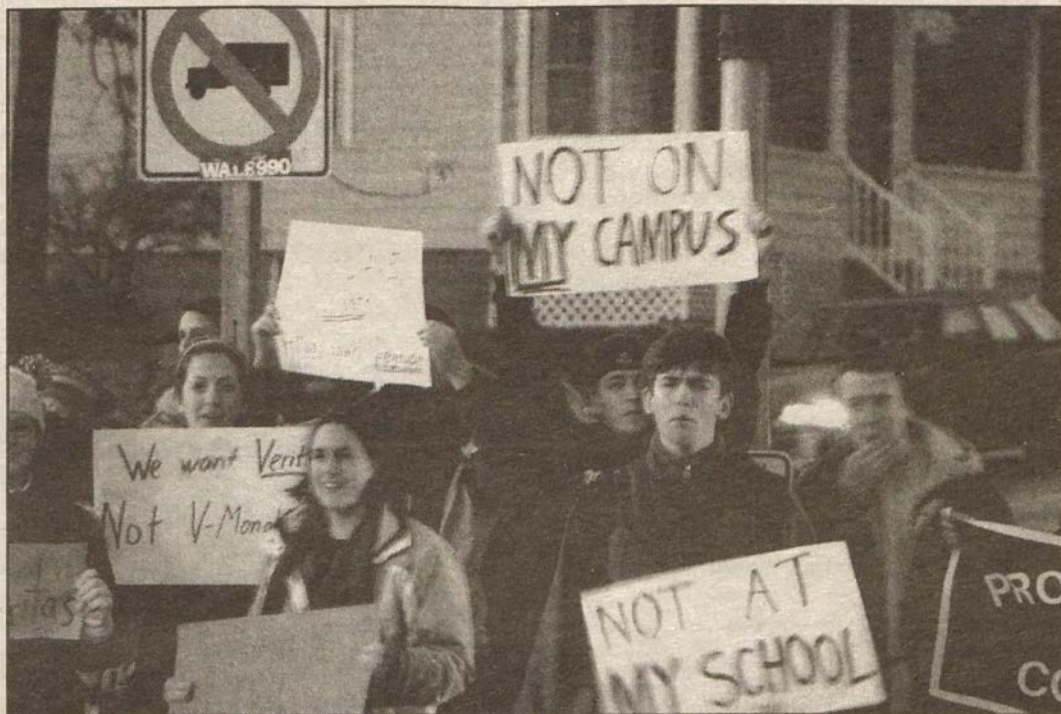
Erin Fitzgerald '08

He said, "In making my decision, I did my homework and read a lot of other statements that Catholic College Presidents made, but I was not inspired by anyone in part. It finally came down to sitting down and asking myself, 'What do I really think about this?'"

Father Shanley said he also considered the fact that many women find the play liberating and empowering, but still opposed the production at PC because of the "uncatholic" content of the play.

"Besides, many women are also offended by the play," he continued.

Despite the nature of the



MARY PELLETIER '09/The Cowl

A group of counter-protestors display signs supporting Father Shanley's decision to prohibit the production of *The Vagina Monologues* at PC. More than 200 students gathered in protest to Father Shanley's decision on Wednesday evening.

College's campus culture, Father Shanley has made it clear that he does not believe *The Vagina Monologues* should disappear from campus in its entirety and that he wants students who receive a Providence College education to be exposed to a wide variety of ideas.

"I am not condemning the play, just the performance of it on this campus. I encourage people to read and study it," he said.

The College's decision to cancel the performance of *The Vagina Monologues* has brought about an abundance of media attention, both local and national. Articles about Father Shanley's decision were published in both *The Providence Journal* and *The Boston Globe*, as well as on a variety of Web sites. He also appeared on Arlene Violet's WHJJ talk radio show to discuss his choice. V-Day, the national organization which supports V-Day productions on college campuses, also issued a statement regarding the cancellation of the play on its Web site.

While Father Shanley said he did not expect the issue to cause such a stir outside of the College community, Rioux is hoping that it will continue to be noticed.

"My hope is that Catholic colleges will start working together to report this injustice to

the media so that all across the nation people will realize what is going on," she said.

James Maginot '06, a student who has participated in past years' productions and had planned to participate this year as well, agreed, saying, "I think a lot of students would agree with us that this should go on and their reactions are varied about it. Some get mad, some get sad, and some simply want to do something about it."

True to this, students from Providence College have been making their opinions known throughout the campus. White buttons printed with the words "I Love My Providence College Vagina" have been seen adorning the jackets and bags of a number of students on campus.

Past participants of productions of *The Vagina Monologues* on campus have also been seen wearing their cast and crew T-shirts from previous years.

On Wednesday afternoon, a rally was held in front of the River Avenue gates to Providence College where students gathered both to protest and support Father Shanley's decision.

More than two-hundred students protesting the play's cancellation chanted and held signs with such slogans as "Vaginas are not vulgar, censorship is" and "My vagina is beautiful, not

disgraceful." Every third student to arrive at the rally was handed a red balloon to symbolize that one in three women is a victim of abuse in their lifetime.

"That's what's really vulgar, not *The Vagina Monologues*," Rioux shouted to the crowd at the rally regarding the statistic.

"I'm here because I don't think it is right that just because it is a Catholic school, people should push their morals and opinions on others," said Stephan Limirando '09.

Erin Fitzgerald '08 said, "Violence against women is not stopping, so why should *The Vagina Monologues*?"

At the same time, another group of students gathered across the road in support of Father Shanley and removing the production from the campus, holding signs with slogans such as "True academic freedom doesn't degrade women."

"Women deserve to be defined and celebrated by more than just their body parts," said Becky Guhin '08. "I was thrilled when I got Father Shanley's e-mail about the cancellation. I sent him back one right away that said, 'Amen!'"

At the time of his interview, Father Shanley said that the vast amount of communications he had received about his choice had been positive and encouraging.

While Rioux said the previ-

ously planned production of *The Vagina Monologues* may still occur at another location, she said that moving it will take away part of what made it so special.

"The beauty of having this on campus was that it was accessible to students and that we were taking a stance on a conservative campus," Rioux said.

Taking a stance on violence against women will continue, however, later this spring when Project S.A.V.E. week hosts educational events such as "Take Back the Night," where women who have been raped address their experiences. A Mass will also be included in the week's events. Father Shanley said he would like to add a fundraising element to the week to replace charity donations which have been generated by *The Vagina Monologues* in past years.

"I have counseled women of sexual assault and abuse... so I realize that we need to educate the community and help people that have been victimized to heal. That is part of the mission of the school," he said.

"I was thrilled when I got Father Shanley's e-mail about the cancellation."

Becky Guhin '08

Father Shanley said the hardest part about his decision to cancel *The Vagina Monologues* was the fact that victims of domestic violence had benefited from the charity donations to shelters in the past. On the other hand, he said, sometimes the controversy surrounding *The Vagina Monologues* got in the way of the positive effects of the production.

"I think we can educate the campus, but we need something that doesn't polarize people," he said. "In some ways, the *Vagina Monologues* seemed counter-productive and in some ways the cause was getting lost. I think *The Vagina Monologues* is the wrong way to go about educating our campus."

Wellness Wednesdays

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Gambling: Odds not in Prime Time's favor

continued from front page

North Providence and Richard Angell of Lincoln, both of whom were charged with racketeering, organized criminal gambling, and conspiracy to commit organized criminal gambling. Jenkins was allegedly involved in trafficking prescription drugs, along with 40-year long mob member Blaise Marfeo of Johnston, according to police.

"The main area of the organized crimes would meet out of Danny's to determine figures for the week... then Jenkins would go to the bar and pay them," said Lt. Leyden.

As part of their investigation, police were given permission from the Superior Court to intercept four phone lines that were being used to make illegal transactions. They later discovered that Jenkins and Angell made frequent payments to crime figures in Boston, which enabled them to continue operating on such a large scale, bringing in more than \$3 million per month.

Police were able to crack the code after listening to and recording thousands of phone conversations between officers of the organized crime. Police followed a similar case last year, when 15 mob gamblers were arrested shortly after the Patriots' Super Bowl victory.

Lt. Leyden said state police plan to present an official request to the Providence Board of Licenses, asking that Prime Time, Danny's, and the Eagle Square Independent Club lose their liquor licenses. As of right now, there are no official plans to shut down the bars, according to License Administrator Richard H. Aitchison. "Once we see the evidence from police we will evaluate it

and go from there," he said.

While the bars may seem like entertaining hangout spots, Lt. Leyden said the felonies committed in these establishments are no laughing matter. "This kind of [situation] is not good for the neighborhood and when you have underage drinking it's going to add to the trouble," he noted.

News of the gambling operations came as a disturbing surprise to some students. "I'm totally against gambling," said Jennifer Heinemann '09. "But it wouldn't scare me to go to the bars. It's not like they were doing anything to students personally." Jennifer Sabanos '09 said she would not have guessed the bars were handling illegal deals behind the scenes. "I had no idea they even had basements," she said.

Other students said the crimes will likely not deter them from frequenting the bars, and may even have the reverse effect. "It won't change anything," said Gerry Rincon '06. "It gives the bars a nice notorious aura; it's a negative thing, but the kids are going to put a positive spin on it."

Since the arrests, security has been heightened in the area near the bars and will continue to be upgraded in the future, noted Maj. John "Jack" Leyden, executive director of the College's Office of Safety and Security and the cousin of Lt. Leyden.

He added that those who spend time at these bars are putting themselves at an increased safety risk, saying that, "I think students should think twice before frequenting these establishments because they're going to be putting themselves in the company of felons and illegal activity."

Information from *The Providence Journal* was used in this report.

Web site: Online pics show off drunken blunders

continued from front page

Web site," she said.

Will Beardslee '06 said that he "wouldn't mind" being pictured on Prime Time's Web site. He did not know that one existed until earlier this week.

"Maybe if I was doing something suspect," he said. "If I was personally frenching a girl and it made the Web site, I don't know if I would really complain."

In regard to public venues posting photos on Web sites, Beardslee said, "I think it depends on the context and the establishment."

Beardslee also expressed a legal concern. "I think it is a very sketchy move for [Prime Time] because of the issue of possibly photographing someone not of age consuming alcohol," he said. "You could get into serious trouble doing that."

Prime Time's Web site does enumerate the bar's rules, which includes that no person under 21 may enter and that all males must additionally show a valid school ID.

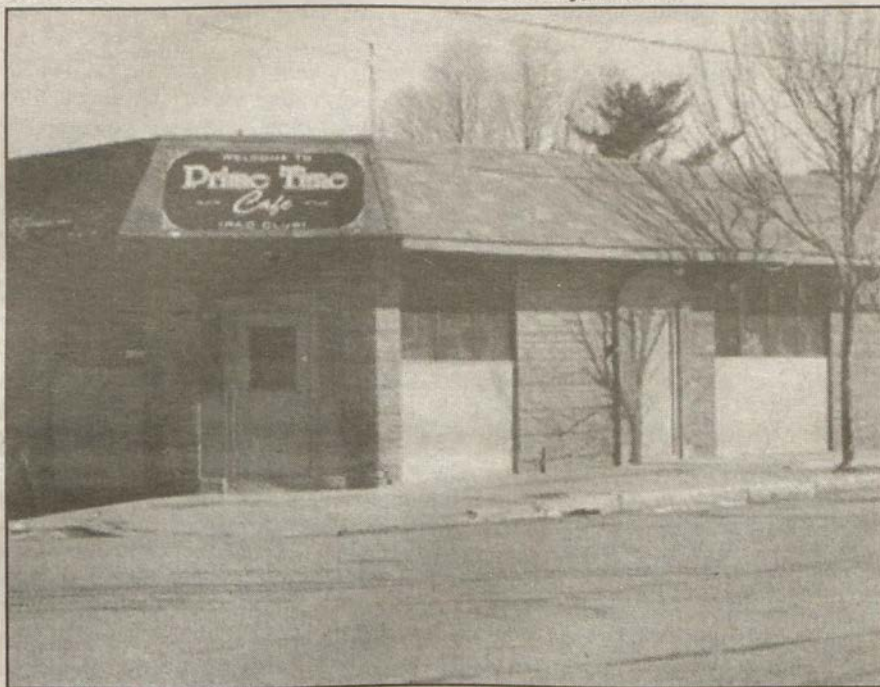
There is a calendar of upcoming events, such as live band performances and the Mardi Gras party, and Web site visitors are encouraged to e-mail the management, sign the guest book, and "chat with friends in the communication room."

The Web site also offers links to other Web sites, including those of Providence College, the Friars, Brown University, Johnson & Wales University, and Bryant University.

In a letter posted on the Web site on Saturday Jan. 21, Prime Time management explained that the bar would be closed that weekend "as part of a 3-day closure imposed upon us for a prior violation of Providence liquor board policies."

Patrons are invited to visit Danny's Place and Old's, both of which can be emailed via links on Prime Time's Web site.

Due to the three-day closure, management was not available for comment this past weekend. Prime Time reopened Wednesday, Jan. 25.



TRACY DONADIO '06/The Cowl

At right: Recognize this local establishment? Recently, a gambling ring was uncovered at Prime Time Cafe on Douglas Avenue. In addition, some PC students are just finding out about the bar's Web site, which features some risque photos.

Class: Variety of new courses offered this semester

continued from page 3

literature by examining writers' thoughts on law and how they have influenced it. Scanlan said this course will flourish at a liberal arts college like Providence College, and he credits his colleagues with helping him create a course that can "tap into the energies of the students."

Two noteworthy new seminars are in session this semester. The first, "Technology and American Culture," is taught by Dr. Thomas King, assistant professor of management, and Dr. Richard Murphy, assistant professor of English. The second, "Women and American Political Life," is taught by Dr. Margaret Manchester, assistant professor of history and Dr. Joseph Cammarano, assistant professor of political science.

According to Manchester, "Women and American Political Life" focuses on the history and nature of women in political life. Its focal points include contemporary issues of gender politics, women as political beings, feminism and anti-feminism, economic and reproductive issues, and issues concerning women and the Constitution.

"Seminars usually rotate every other year, and they require departmental approval," Manchester said. "These sessions will be on this rotation."

Some other seminars to keep an eye out for are "The American Slave Resistance" and "The American Obsession with Information and Communications."

Dr. Sandra Keating, professor of theology, is offering the course "Church and

the Major World Religions" (THL 358) which fulfills the theology requirement. By focusing on Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism from both an academic and a Christian viewpoint, this course investigates the relationship between Christianity and these other religions.

The Department of Music has been preparing several courses for upcoming semesters. Dr. Patricia Cichy, assistant professor of music, said she plans to teach a seminar in "World Music for Educators," which has already received departmental approval. According to Cichy, this course explores how to approach the teaching of world music to students in grades K-12.

"This course examines the general aspects of world music, as well as the instrumental and choral parts," Cichy said, "so this course is perfect for students who wish to go into music education."

Another course in the process of gaining full approval in the music department is a seminar in "Lyric Diction for Singers," which will be instructed by Prof. David Harper. According to Harper, it is a foundational course that is necessary for students who plan to pursue singing. This course will teach students how to pronounce words in Italian, French, German, and various other languages as they are meant to be sung. Harper says that while diction does not replace language, it would be unreasonable to have a singer take all language courses. Rather, diction is a "tool for articulation." Students who go on to major music schools and conservatories will be tested in diction, so Harper's seminar will serve as the first

foundational level in acquiring this skill.

"Diction is very important for singers," Harper said. "And their singing just improves so much because they tune into the language."

Thirdly, Dr. Catherine Gordon-Seifert, professor of music, has recently proposed "The Life and Works of Johann Sebastian Bach" (MSC 482). Gordon-Seifert says that students will "read and discuss Bach's development as a composer and player, the various positions he held throughout his life, the historical context that affected his life and works, profiles of his music, and the influence and reception of his works."

There are also a variety of recently introduced courses in the science departments. Dr. Kathleen Cornely, professor of chemistry, is offering "Biochemistry Lab" (CHM 310) and "Special Topics in Biochemistry" (CHM 470). "Biochemistry Lab" was once a one-credit lab course that met once a week from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., but thanks to the support of Cornely, it is now a three-credit course that meets for an hour each on Tuesday and Thursday to reinforce topics investigated in the lab. Dr. Jay Pike, assistant professor of chemistry, taught the "Special Topics in Biochemistry" course in the spring semesters of 2003 and 2004, focusing on inorganic chemistry, his area of expertise. Cornely, whose specialty is nutritional biochemistry, began teaching this course in the spring semester of 2005 and is continuing it this semester. Her class will focus on food politics and nutrition. Cornely's curriculum involves reading Marion Nestle's *Food Politics* and Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation*, as well

as viewing the film *Supersize Me*. This course allows students to go back to original sources to find the truth in the studies behind food advertisements and claims.

Dr. Stephen Mecca, professor of engineering/physics/systems has introduced "The Science of Sound and Music" (EPS 120). Mecca, who developed this course while on sabbatical leave several years ago, said he is enthusiastic about the class, which had a waiting list of students during pre-registration. This course, in which students have the chance to work in teams on many hands-on workshops and projects, investigates how sound works. Among the topics investigated in this course are the fundamentals of pitch, the human voice, special effects, and the characteristics of performance spaces.

Dr. Louis Cadwell, professor of engineering/physics/systems had intended to continue teaching his course "How Things Work" (EPS 125) which is a conceptual physics course that takes a different approach to viewing the way things work, but it will be under a different title while he waits for a more specific textbook.

Two more "coming attractions" to look forward to are a course in "Religion and Politics in the U.S." in the Political Science Department and "The Wisdom of Augustine" (PHL 405) in the Theology Department. Rev. Joseph Torchia, O.P. is scheduled to teach "The Wisdom of Augustine," for the first time next fall, though the course still has to be voted on by the Faculty Senate and approved by the College President at the end of February.

Two PC students gear up for Bike and Build trip

BY CATE RAUSEO '07
NEWS STAFF

Seniors Mickey Begin '06 and Ericc Powell '06 will hit the road this summer to aid in raising money for, and awareness of, national efforts to increase affordable housing.

Only weeks after graduating from the College, Powell will begin a 3,700 mile trek from Providence to Seattle, Wash., beginning on June 3, while Begin will join a group of roughly 30 cyclists in riding from Portsmouth, N.H., to Vancouver, British Columbia on June 15. Both journeys will take approximately 65 days and are part of a nationally run organization known as "Bike and Build."

According to their motto, "Bike and Build" is "pedaling to end poverty housing." Each year, the program sponsors four cross-country trips, beginning and ending in varying locations on the East and West coasts, respectively. To date, the organization has contributed over \$400,000 to affordable housing groups throughout the nation.

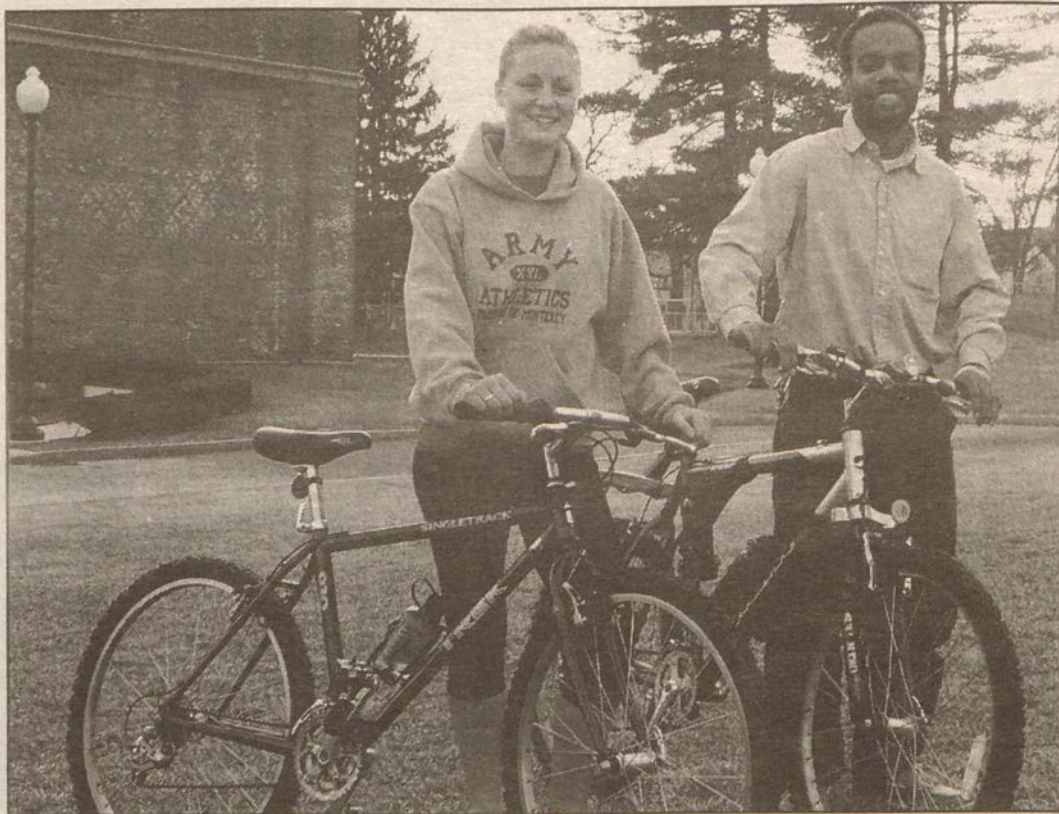
Powell was drawn to the program because of his desire to aid those in need, his love for biking, and the appeal of traveling across the nation.

"When I saw the opportunity to combine my passion for building affordable housing with my love for biking, I could not pass it up. I have also wanted to drive across the country, and now I get to bike," Powell said.

Begin decided to make her trek across the nation for similar reasons in addition to a familial influence.

"I decided to participate in Bike and Build because biking across the country has been a goal of mine since my grandfather completed a similar trek four years ago at the ripe old age of 70," Begin said. "He has been a huge inspiration in my life so I jumped at the opportunity to complete the journey in the service of a good cause."

Powell, a public and commu-



Mickey Begin '06, left, and Ericc Powell '06 will be biking across the country to raise money to fund affordable housing. They are soliciting donations from family, friends, and local businesses to raise the minimum \$4000 needed to participate.

nity service major, is no stranger to aiding those in need as he has spent his spring break each year building affordable homes through Habitat for Humanity.

After leaving Rhode Island, Powell and his fellow riders will make their way through Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and after multiple days of building on the way, the group will finally arrive in Seattle, Wash., where they will be able to stay and explore the city for a few days.

A Lewiston, Maine, native, Begin will make her cross-country journey a little further north as she and other participants in the organization's "Northern Route" will travel through New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, ending in British Columbia.

Aside from biking, the "Bike and Build" groups will stop along their journeys to help

build affordable homes, teach cycling clinics for children, present housing information to students throughout the nation, and review grant proposals of varying organizations vying for funding from the ride.

"Many of the building sites will be Habitat for Humanity sites where we will work with that local affiliate for that day. We do not know what stage of the house they will be on, but we could be raising walls, siding, painting, putting on finishing touches—anything is possible," Powell said.

In order to prepare for the both physically and mentally draining journey the two have begun rigorous training routines.

"I will be setting up a rough training schedule for myself that will include long bike rides, some hill training, and other exercise including my simultaneous Boston Marathon training... I will be embarking on an 80-plus mile ride to Connecticut later on this semester. I will add in a ride or two to Massa-

chusetts or southern Rhode Island. I will also be biking in various kinds of weather to get used to all kinds of situations," Powell said.

"When I saw the opportunity to combine my passion for building affordable housing with my love for biking, I could not pass it up."

Ericc Powell

"They have given us a workout schedule which I am following right now," Begin said. "Basically it involves lifting two days a week and doing up to an hour of cardio on the other days. I have also been going to spinning classes several days a week. The workouts get progressively harder as we approach the start date with a

greater focus on longer outdoor rides. I plan on getting a personal trainer one day per week and I am looking into joining a cycling club."

In addition to partaking in building Habitat for Humanity homes during the cross-country journeys, each rider must raise at least \$4,000 which will fund the ride itself and mainly to affordable housing programs.

To raise this large sum of money the two seniors have begun trying to spread the word of their good deeds to as many people as possible.

"I am fundraising simply by word of mouth and sending out letters," Powell said. "I tell friends, family, faculty, and others about what I am doing, why I am doing it, who the program is helping, and ask for donations."

"Basically I have gone about fundraising through a massive letter writing campaign to friends, family, and area businesses," Begin said.

Mickey and I, in addition to raising money, are raising awareness of the need for affordable housing, and letting everyone know that when you invest yourself in something, you can do anything. It is time to stop talking about what you could do and start doing what you have always wanted to do," said Powell.

As the two students' commitment to service may be inspirational to many, it is possible for us all to aid in making their journey worth while. If you would like to help, or find out more about the program, check out www.bikeandbuild.org.

In addition, Begin and Powell are hosting a fundraising night at Pizzeria Uno Chicago Bar and Grill at the Providence Place mall on Feb. 1. The two will be distributing flyers around campus, prior to the event, which, if presented during the meal, will allow 20 percent of the meals' total cost to be donated to the Bike and Build Program.

The two encourage all donations and as Powell notes, "no donation is too small and no donation is unimportant."

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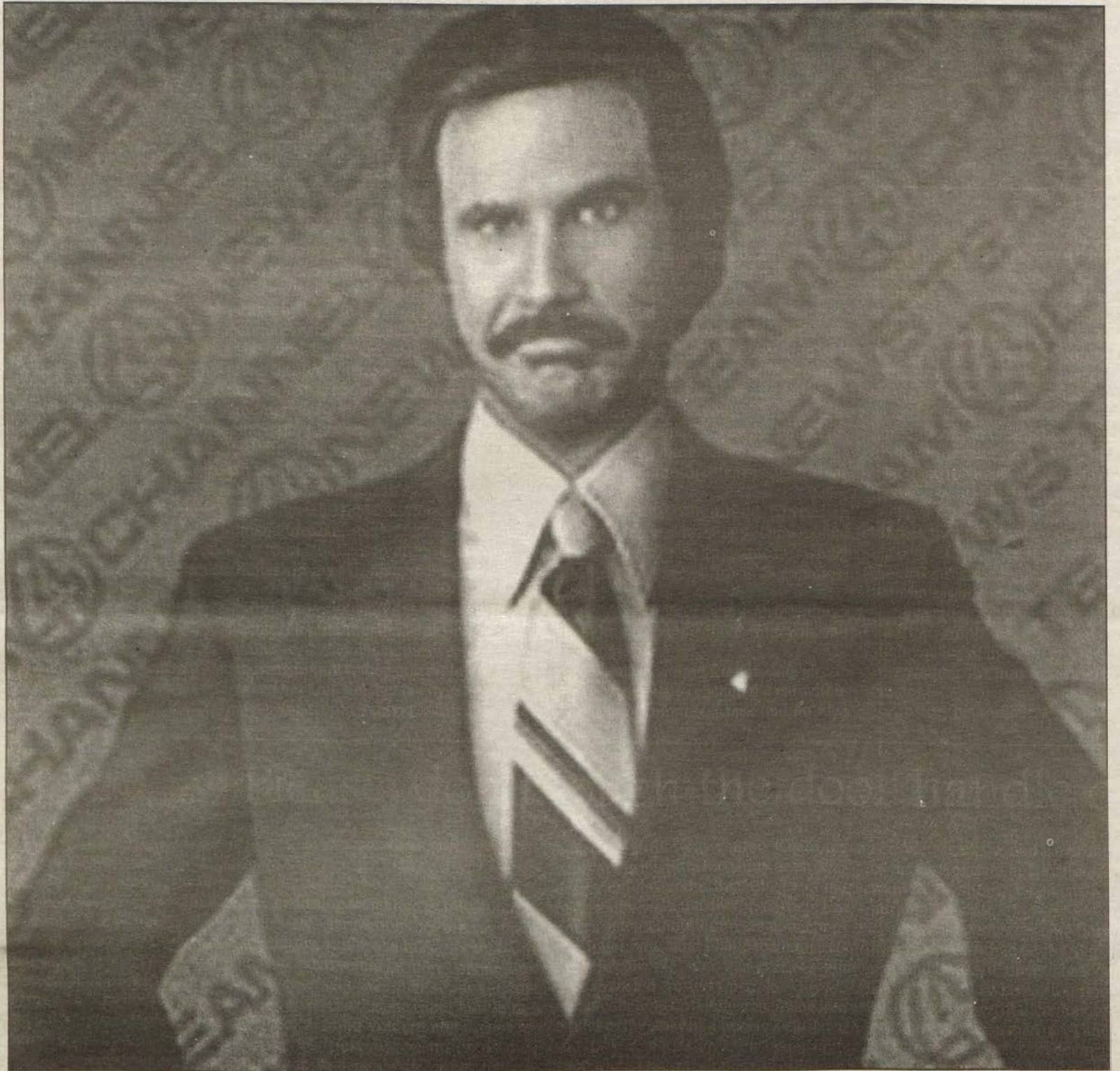
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PC group marches for life in D.C.

BY MATTHEW SULLIVAN '06
WORLD STAFF

Joining hundreds of thousands of Pro-Life supporters from across the country, 51 Providence College students took part in the 33rd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Monday, Jan. 23.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The students were led by PC for Life co-presidents, Dan Lade '07, Bethany Bourdon '08, Kate Connolly '08, and assistant chaplain Rev. John Paul Walker O.P. and Jessica Pane, campus minister.

The group departed Providence early Saturday morning aboard a full coach, later arriving at Rockwood Manor in Maryland where they would stay in cabins for the next two days.

Sunday morning the marchers entered Washington, D.C., to explore the capital city and later congregated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington for the National Prayer Vigil for Life Mass.

The Mass was celebrated by William Cardinal Keeler, archbishop of Baltimore and chairman of Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Concelebrating the mass were cardinals, bishops, and priests from across the country, including Father Walker.

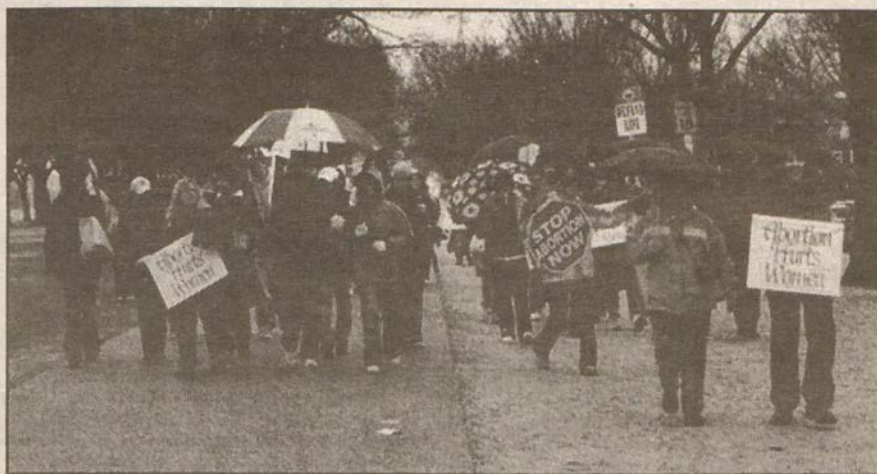
“I hope someone is moved by my presence to stop their abortion from happening. As a former fetus, I think it is important to speak out for the rights of current fetuses.”

Meaghan Keane '07

An estimated 7,000 people filled the Basilica, spilling over into the aisles and the crypt of the church. In his homily, Cardinal Keeler urged those present to fight for “the triumph of life.” Joe La Hood '06 described the Mass as “the most powerful part of the trip.”

Early Monday morning the marchers attended Mass at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., before heading into the center of the city to begin the march. Crowds of about 100,000 marched up Constitution Avenue past the Capitol building before ending at the Supreme Court. The group departed shortly afterward and returned to Providence the next morning.

The weather was overcast and driz-



About 100,000 activists turned out at the March For Life this weekend in the nation's capital despite inclement weather.

zling for the march. Among the crowd many carried signs reading “Defend Life” or “Stop Abortion Now.” A large portion of those marchers were young people from schools and churches. The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property’s banner read, “The acceptance of abortion not only changes a person’s morals, but transforms their Christian worldview into neo-pagan secularism.”

On Sunday, pro-choice activists held a rally in support of abortion rights on the National Mall. After the march a number of people carrying “Keep Abortion Legal” and a flag depicting a coat hanger could be seen arguing with marchers outside the Supreme Court.

The march which has occurred annually since 1973, marks the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, made on Jan. 22 of that year, legalizing abortion in America. This year’s march came during the same week that the Senate will be considering the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. If confirmed, Alito’s vote could be decisive on abortion cases. Also, the Court appears poised to consider the constitutionality of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act passed by Congress in 2003.

As he has every year, President George W. Bush sent a message to the marchers asking for their continued fight for life. He outlined legislative and judicial gains against abortion in the United States stating, “We’re vigorously promoting parental notification laws, adoption, teen abstinence, crisis pregnancy programs, and the vital work of our faith-based groups.”

Those participating in the march said they hoped their actions would help end abortion in America. “I hope someone is moved by my presence to stop their abor-

tion from happening. As a former fetus, I think it is important to speak out for the rights of current fetuses,” said Meaghan Keane '07.

Becky Guhin '08 saw the march as an opportunity to show that opposition to abortion did not mean opposition to women’s rights. “It’s important to see women can be feminist and Pro-Life by respecting the lives of babies and women,” said Guhin.

Keith Gyther '06 appreciated the opportunity to join with his peers for a cause. “It’s good to be with others to have a common positive goal and see how many people with the same goal can come together.”

The March For Life has become somewhat of a youth phenomenon with the majority of marchers having being born after the 1973 decision. They refer to themselves as those who have survived a generation of abortion.

Other academic institutions in attendance included Princeton University, from where Peter Singer, philosopher and head of the ethics department hails. Singer outraged many anti-abortion advocates when he cast his support for a 28-day period in which parents can terminate the life of a “defective” newborn, effectively endorsing post-partum abortion.

The Princeton Pro-Life group bases their stance on logic and “public reason.” From this foundation the student marchers found, “the Pro-Life position is not only teneble but morally responsible to hold,” a significant departure from Singer’s position.

Sources: Pro-Life Blogs, Lifesite, The Conservative Voice

Georgians angered over gas sabotage

BY NICOLE CHISMAR '07
WORLD STAFF

Since the 1986 Chernobyl explosion, Ukraine and Georgia have been dependent upon Russia for its natural resources. This dependency became particularly strained on Sunday when two explosions in Georgia’s North Ossetia province dismantled the country’s main natural gas pipeline.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The pipeline, which exports gas across the Russian border into Georgia, was said to have been damaged by two 800-gram dynamite explosions within 20 minutes of each other. The Emergency Situations Ministry estimated on Monday that this severe damage will take two or three days to repair. However, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said that a “more realistic estimate” is several weeks.

While gas flow has been partially restored using an alternate pipeline which flows from the neighboring soviet nation Azerbaijan, many schools and factories still remain closed, and according to Georgian officials, “the rupture in gas and electricity service came during one of the coldest winters on record in the Caucasus nation.”

Moreover, the area where the explosion occurred consists of rough terrain and widely separated pipeline locations, suggesting that the explosion was intentional. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the sabotage.

These explosions along with a temporary gas crisis in Ukraine earlier this month have persuaded president Vladimir Putin of Russia to order the Federal Security Service to increase security at plants and has asked Russia’s police chief to cooperate. In response to these efforts president Saakashvili remains skeptical.

“The whole circumstances look very

dubious to us,” said Saakashvili, adding that he suspects Russia orchestrated the explosions to put strong political and economic pressure on his country.

Saakashvili is working on a plan that would enable Georgia to become less dependent upon Russia for natural resources. Negotiations surrounding this plan are expected to be completed this fall.

Meanwhile, hundreds of demonstrators appeared outside of the Russian embassy in Georgia on Monday evening to express their dismay of the recent political and economic relations between Georgia and Russia.

Many carried signs that read, “Gasputin”—a hateful play of words on Rasputin, whose involvement with Russia’s Romanov family is often cited as a cause of the Russian Revolution.

Sources: CNN, The New York Times, Reuters, BBC, Associated Press

Ask PC

Are students more vulnerable than others when traveling abroad?



“Yes. I had a bad experience with hostility when I traveled outside of the country, but it would not deter me from traveling again.”

Gerard Gustafson '09



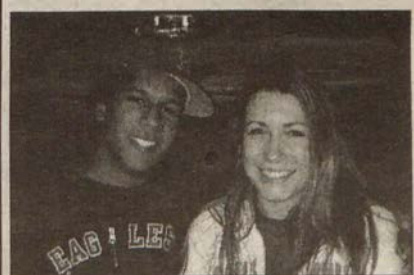
“Yes. College-age students are seen as targets everywhere they go, so American students in foreign countries are especially targeted.”

Anthony Fontana '09
and Kevin Chadwick '09



“Yes. College kids are out drinking and getting themselves into trouble so they are definitely more at risk.”

Emily Ollquist '07
and Katie Doyle '07



“No. I think everyone is equally at risk. Age is not a factor, ignorance is. You can be ignorant at any age.”

Kenny Quezada '08
and Marissa Boland '08



“A lot of people try to scam college students. I think it depends on who you go with and if you have done your research to make sure your travel plans and companies are credible.”

Vicky Fagan '08

COMPILED BY JULIANNE SPOHRER '07
AND ALLISON HERRMANN '07

Week in Review

COMPILED BY ERIN EGAN '07

Local:**Inmate connected to murder**

Backed by DNA and "trace evidence" an inmate at the Adult Correctional Institution, Victor Cortes, has been connected to the murder of 25-year-old African immigrant, Yodit Kaleab, who went missing Sept. 29 after borrowing a friend's mini-van for a "quick trip" to the store. According to her father, the family was within weeks of moving out of the Smith Hill area to Stone Mountain, Ga., for a change of scenery and friends. Kaleab herself was once a victim of domestic violence and charged with the possession of marijuana.

Cortes, already sentenced with 20 years for a string of armed robbery and parole violations, was brought into trial straight from ACI in his blue jumpsuit. He has a long history of crime and is described by police as a "dangerous individual."

National:**Google defies government**

In an effort to enforce the 1998 Child Online Protection Act, an Internet pornography law, the U.S. Department of Justice has requested random search queries from the major search engine companies, such as Yahoo!, Google, and Microsoft MSN. In skepticism that this request will breach personal privacy and

reveal certain trade secrets, Google is refusing to comply.

One of their major competitors however, Yahoo!, has already turned over the information, requested through subpoena, "on a limited basis and did not provide any personally identifiable information." Google, however, will "resist their motion vigorously."

International:**E.U. suspicious of U.S. torture tactics**

In an ongoing European investigation, from Nov. 2, 2005, into the "outsourcing" of torture by the United States in different Eastern European locations has pointed this Tuesday to the validity of the charges. The original charges stated that the CIA allegedly hid and interrogated key al-Qaida suspects at Soviet-era compounds in Eastern Europe.

Swiss Senator Dick Marty has pleaded for the cooperation of the European Union, and stated that this investigation is rooted too deep for his means and needs more tangible evidence. Marty stated, "acts of torture or severe violation of detainees' dignity through the administration of inhuman or degrading treatment are carried outside national territory, and beyond the authority of national intelligence services."

More than 100 of these suspects have allegedly been transferred to countries

where they faced ill treatment in recent years. Marty has obtained flight logs from the Brussels air safety organization Eurocontrol, and different satellite images for Romanian and Polish air bases all of which are under investigation. The European Union's top justice official, Franco Frattini, called on all E.U. governments to "fully cooperate" with the investigators this Tuesday.

Science and Technology:**Astronomers find Earth-like planet**

Astronomers have found the smallest planet outside of our Solar System to have properties similar to Earth. Orbiting a red dwarf star, the planet has five times the Earth's mass and is about 25,000 light-years away. Using a method called microlensing to detect planets with Earth-like mass, scientists discovered that the planet has a rocky core and probably a thin atmosphere. Discovery of life on the planet is unlikely due to its cold temperatures.

Professor Michael Bode from Liverpool John Moores University said, "This is the most Earth-like planet we have discovered, in terms of its mass and the distance from its parent star. The microlensing technique used by the astronomers was first predicted by Einstein in 1922."

Sources: BBC, Providence Journal

ODDLY ENOUGH

The travail of train travel

The Chinese Lunar New Year is approaching and in preparation migrant workers in south China are preparing to make their homeward journeys. In an attempt to make travel on the packed trains more comfortable, preparations have included the purchase of adult diapers.

Millions of Chinese workers will fill trains to make it home in time to celebrate with family. The enormous increase in train passengers during this time leaves standing room only and makes restroom access nearly impossible.

It is not unheard of for trips to take more than 24 hours, causing passengers to become increasingly discontent, and frequently passengers leap off the train.

Supermarkets have reported a 50-percent increase in the amount of diapers normally sold. Local commentators have often referred to the situation as "the shame of the nation."

The Chinese Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday in the Chinese culture and is considered the largest movement of humanity on earth.

Sources: Reuters, Yahoo

—KIM KRUPA '07

College News

BY SARAH VERNON '07
WORLD STAFF

Brown University students returning back to campus this semester were met with sad news. Luis Pagan, 22, a Brown student, drowned off the coast of Mexico on Jan. 12. Pagan had been visiting a friend in Pueblo Angel, Oaxaca, for a vacation.

Pagan disappeared while swimming after waters became choppy, pulling him farther out to sea. An inexperienced swimmer, Pagan was in shallow waters when he was swept away by the strong current. Lifeguards determined the situation to be too dangerous to perform a rescue. One day after he disappeared, Pagan was found 12 miles down shore.

News of Pagan's death shocked Brown University students. They were told of the incident in an e-mail to the

Brown community from the Dean of the College Paul Armstrong and David Greene, vice president for campus life and student service.

The letter described his personal character as well as his commitment to public service. It recognized his work in the community and goals of working for non-profit organizations in the future.

Pagan was born in Puerto Rico, but had lived in Providence since the age of 3. He grew up in the West End and South Side neighborhoods and attended Classical High School. Passionate about social causes, Pagan had participated in the organization Youth in Action since the age of 14, working to affect change in urban neighborhoods.

The executive director of Youth in Action, Karen Feldman called Pagan's death "a terrible loss to our Youth in Action family, because we really are like a family."

Feldman also remarked upon how inspiring Pagan's life can be for other young people. "The most important thing for maybe all of us to remember, is not only what he was not able to accomplish,



Luis Pagan was swept out to sea while vacationing in Mexico.

but what he was able to accomplish," she said.

At Youth in Action, Pagan worked to halt youth violence, encourage public service, and improve awareness of AIDS/HIV. He was passionate about his causes, once saying in an interview that his motto was to "Do something to make things better."

Youth in Action Director Karen Feldman remarked upon Pagan's dedication saying, "He mentored hundreds

of other youth. The purpose of Youth in Action is to help youth become lifelong leaders—every time one of our youth teaches, he's there again for the rest of their lives."

At Brown, Pagan majored in public and private-sector organization. He planned to eventually receive a master's degree so he could help non-profit organizations receive funding to help disadvantaged youths.

Even while on his vacation, Pagan wrote an e-mail to friends describing the poor living conditions of the villagers living in Pueblo Angel. He spoke of the developers who were commercializing the area, further marginalizing the villagers. His mother, Carol Pagan, remarked that Pagan never stopped being a "a champion for the little people." "That's typical Luis . . . always fighting for humanity and gung ho about causes," she said.

The organization Youth in Action has set up a memorial fund for Pagan.

Sources: Providence Journal, The Brown Daily Herald

Weekly Spotlight

LAURA BEDROSSIAN '07
WORLD STAFF

The United States has never elected an indigenous president. In fact, the closest it has ever come was when Charles Curtis ran on the same ticket as Herbert Hoover in 1928. While the same has been true for most countries in the hemisphere, Bolivia made history this year when it elected its first indigenous president, a former coca farmer.

Claiming the largest victory since Bolivia returned to democracy in 1982, Evo Morales will take the oath of office this Sunday, after winning 54 percent of the vote. He will be the latest in a string of leftist presidents to come to power in the region, a fact that many postulate will help cement that trend.

Morales' support was derived largely from the country's significant population of impoverished indigenous peoples, of which he is a part. During the campaign, Morales promised to fight corruption in the government and discrimination against the indigenous, as well as

Native voice rises to top office in Bolivia

bring Bolivia's natural resources under state control.

The 46-year-old socialist has frequently described himself as "America's nightmare," and has just as often expressed his belief that the United States is an oppressive "empire." While he got his start as the leader of a local coca farmer's federation before ascending to Congress, his rise to fame was due in large part to outspoken opposition of U.S. economic policy.

"It seems as though some journalists in Europe and Asia want to see me in feathers and half-naked."

Bolivian President
Evo Morales

Critical of the free market system in and of itself, Morales participated in the 2002 protests which killed more than 50 people and led to the ouster of former president Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

Still, not all Bolivians support Morales despite his popularity and charisma. "There is worry and uncertainty," said Mertha Melgar, a Bolivian citizen. "There are a lot of ignorant and illiterate people in Bolivia and perhaps Evo has promised them too much and they will lose patience quickly."

While critics wonder if he has what it takes to steer the country in the right direction, he has won the support of neighboring leftist presidents such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, who has agreed to provide thousands of scholarships to rural Bolivian students, equip the rural population with ID cards, and to sell diesel fuel and soybeans at a discounted rate.

Much to the dismay of anxious U.S. officials, he is also friendly with Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. "When I met him, I joked with Fidel: 'If you don't come to the inauguration, I'm not going to take the oath,'" Morales told reporters, expressing his hope that the controversial leader would attend this weekend's ceremonies.

He also joked that he could be related to Argentina's president Nestor Kirchner

during a recent visit to the country. "We both have a big nose," he quipped.

As the United States continues to struggle with Chavez and his plans for the country's oil industry, there is reason to believe Morales will pose a similar problem, as Bolivia has the next richest oil and gas reserve in the region. He does however, promise to respect private property in the region, a major topic of contention for both current and potential foreign investors.

Morales however feels largely misunderstood. On the campaign trail, many teased him about his casual attire, expecting more native accoutrements. "It seems as though some journalists in Europe and Asia want to see me in feathers and half-naked," he said.

While swearing in his cabinet, Morales hinted at the high expectations he has for the term and his administration. "I want to ask you personally, that this government have zero corruption, zero bureaucracy . . . The people are tired of this and it's got to end," he admonished.

Sources: The Times, Associated Press, Forbes, New York Times, Washington Post, Reuters

Finally, some vagina discourse

Clearly, Father does not know best

BY ERIN RICE '06
COMMENTARY STAFF

Father Shanley's recent decision to prohibit the production of *The Vagina Monologues* on campus was infuriating for many people involved with the play. However, his decision also set a frightening precedent for the future of Providence College.

This letter came to the students as the first "in a series of letters" reflecting upon issues that came to the President's attention concerning "campus culture." If this is only a taste of what is to come, then it is more important than ever for students to set a precedent of our own and stand up for our interests. If we want to practice the basic rights that ought to be afforded to us both as Americans and as students, namely, freedom of speech and academic freedom, Father Shanley's letter proves that we have to fight for them.

Understandably, Father Shanley acted upon what he believed served the best interest of the College. He was pressured on both sides of the issue and had to make a difficult decision. He took the time to both read the play in its entirety and listen to the concerns of the students involved. However, in the end it came down to the parts of the play he considered "morally objectionable," and a choice, not a compromise, was made.

Allegedly, students involved in the production were told by Father Shanley that the production would go on. And with the outright cancellation of the production, many people feel angered and betrayed. This decision proves even harsher than Father Smith's previous decisions.

In striving to abide by the mission of the College, it is equally as important to live up to the label of a liberal arts institution. Together, those words connote a study of humanistic and artistic disciplines by promoting intellectual skills over utilitarian ones. Separately, liberal means to not be limited to or established by traditional or authoritarian views, attitudes, or dogmas.

The students and administration alike have also expressed concern about diversity on campus. In order to be a liberal arts college, we have to expand our understanding of diversity to cover more than ethnicity, but also diversity of mind and opinion. Father Shanley touched upon this point in his letter by stating that "it is perfectly appropriate that we study texts that have diverse views in order both to broaden our understanding of others and to bring our own views into sharper focus." He then assures that "all members of the campus are free to read, study and discuss the play in various settings, especially the classroom." Although *The Vagina Monologues* have very strong and well-written words, the heart and soul of the play lies in the performance of the women who take on the roles.

Perhaps the people who will suffer the most as a result of this decision are those who would be the recipients of money raised by the event, mainly, victims of domestic abuse. Because of the popularity of the event at PC, the production raised more than \$1000 for local charities last year alone, and has the potential to raise much more if it were not for limitations on ticket sales.

If Providence College wants to foster intellectual growth and free-thinking individuals, students need to be given the opportunity to choose and form opinions for themselves. A student should be able to choose if he or she wants to take part in, or see a production of *The Vagina Monologues*, and it is at that point when a student can decide for himself or herself whether it is morally objectionable or not.

Fellow Commentary writer and a participant in last year's *The Vagina Monologues*, Colleen Flynn admits that, "Yes, the play uses vulgar language, but they are merely words. What is even more vulgar is PC's lack of resources for women. The 'Vagina Monologues' serves as one of the few outlets and forums for women's rights on campus, considering we have neither a women's center, any information regarding rape resources, or even trained professionals to educate students on sexual abuse during orientation." *The Vagina Monologues* belong to the dedicated students who love and value it, but it was taken away by the people who hate, and do not understand it when it never should have been up for the taking in the first place.

Standing their Holy ground

BY LAURA BEDROSSIAN '07
WORLD STAFF

Tired of wishy-washy decisions from the Providence College administration? Well, we have just entered a new era. Through a campus-wide e-mail concerning the highly controversial student production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, Father Shanley ended any confusion to whether or not the show would go on by clearly saying "no."

I have heard some of my peers discussing the issue. Some call the play a wonderful display and celebration of female sexuality. Ensler's work is also noted for its achievement in confronting and putting the issue of violence against women in the spotlight—a theme which should, and must be brought to everyone's attention because of its undeniable presence in society. Other, more conservative views on campus see certain parts of the monologues as "degrading", and portraying women as "sex-thirsty."

It is easy to take something out of context, point out its vulgarity or immorality, and essentially base an entire decision on a few words. This is what supporters of the PC production of the show will say Father Shanley did. However, this PC student says otherwise.

Father Shanley's ruling is a decision the entire student body should definitely support. PC's previous president, Father Smith, clearly did not support the production, essentially forcing academic departments to sponsor the play so it could go on in an already restricted manner. The administration put on the façade of disagreeing with some of the play's messages, stating they were inconsistent with the mission statement and the traditional Roman Catholic and Dominican dogma. Yet despite said disagreement, the show ultimately went on.

Many viewed these actions concerning the monologues to be unfair. I agree. The backdoor allowance of the play is certainly unfair. This is not simply because the cause it supports deserves to be given much more attention than one performance, but it is unfair to the entire PC community to have an administrator give an unclear stance

as to whether the statements of the monologues mesh with the mission statement of the school and the Catholic Church.

The vulgar language scattered through the play definitely makes this modest girl a bit uncomfortable—which I suppose is part of the *Monologues'* mission. I want to know about the issue of domestic violence and how it is affecting women—not "insert vulgarities here". The proclaimed "narrators" of *The Vagina Monologues* also distract viewers from the issue. Who wants to hear a woman's story coming from her vagina instead of her intelligent, well-spoken whole self? The vagina is just a part of a woman and if you are an abused woman, I want to hear your story from YOU—not your vagina.

PC's mission statement clearly says that PC "recognizes the unity of the human family that proceeds from its one Creator. It therefore encourages the deepest respect for the essential dignity, freedom, and equality of every person." I am pretty sure that squeezing the experience of women into the word "vagina," not to mention the other taboo words used throughout the show, takes away from the dignity, freedom, and equality of any person by focusing on one symbol, rather than the whole. More importantly, the school's mission also states that the College "actively cultivates intellectual, spiritual, ethical, and aesthetic values within the context of the Judaeo-Christian heritage." Father Shanley encourages the play to be read and discussed throughout the campus for academic purposes, but to allow a production of Ensler's work to be put on would mean that PC agrees with everything in the monologues. Though this is an extreme statement, to read Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and allowing for academic debate and study would be much different than making a production of the book in an effort to promote the same kind of intellectual discussion.

I adamantly support Father Shanley's well-written statement as to why he is quashing the student performance of *The Vagina Monologues*. It is refreshing to see someone take a clear stance on an issue—an issue that certainly divides, rather than unites the campus. The show may raise money for a worthy local cause, but the end certainly does not justify the means and this fundraising can be done in other ways. If the administration is going to be consistent with its mission statement and the standards that come with it, the school cannot possibly allow such a production to be put on.

The administration's decision to cancel the spring production of The Vagina Monologues has raised controversy around campus as well as outside of the College. Some see the decision as a restriction of academic freedom and a stifling of creativity on our campus, while others applaud the school for holding fast to its mission of instilling Catholic values.

Graphic by Eric Fulford '08

Letters to the Editor:

PC not to blame for Smith Hill's condition

I just read Jen Jarvis '07's well-written article about Providence College's interaction with the surrounding neighborhood. I believe it is an excellent idea to host discussions with the neighbors. An open dialogue can usually be helpful. However, I find it preposterous that according to the article, Tom Twitchell thinks that PC students "are the ghetto." I also find it reprehensible that Mr. Twitchell characterizes the students as "white carbon copies of each other."

When I attended PC it was clear to me that the city of Providence did not want to invest the necessary time or money to clean up Smith Hill or Chad Brown and by extension Elmhurst. When I was in Big Brothers of Rhode Island, the child that I was matched with told me of shootings he witnessed on Chad Brown, and said Police were often not effective in dealing with the crimes. After reading Ms. Jarvis' article, it seems that nothing has changed. In fact one of the professors seems to excuse the neighborhood crime because the surrounding residents do not have enough after-school programs. I submit that effective, consistent law enforcement will drastically lower the crime rate in the streets surrounding PC, and it will be more effective than after school programs. Further, if the streets are safe and clean, businesses will trickle in and the neighborhood will change. I have witnessed this in New York, Hoboken, N.J. and now in my town

of West New York, N.J., all diverse, urban areas with unique problems, that encourage economic growth and low rates of violent crime.

About a decade ago the city of Providence began a renaissance, but the investment and economic development lead mostly to the downtown area. That was consistent with a plan hatched by then Mayor Buddy Cianci, who now resides in a rather small place in my home state of New Jersey. When I stopped in the neighborhood during Memorial Day weekend this past May, it was clear to me that Smith Hill and Elmhurst are still left off the city's radar. Many of the streets surrounding PC are filled with old, broken triple-decker homes, and some of them are owned by slumlords and inhabited by drug-dealers and welfare recipients. Further, the quality of the businesses has not improved.

Blaming those problems on PC students is completely unfair. If the residents of the city of Providence want to improve the neighborhood, the City must provide the resources to make the city streets safe and clean and the housing acceptable. Otherwise, desirable tenants such as PC students will move elsewhere, and it seems as if they already have.

CHRISTOPHER ROCHE
WEST NEW YORK, N.J.

Porn in the USA

From 2002 to 2004, Nevada's population grew by more than 300,000, or 17 percent. Since this is the largest percentage increase in the United States, I wish to mention objectively that Nevada is also famous, or infamous, depending on one's rationale, for really supporting our military who have and have not served in Iraq.

According to the Jan. 26 issue of *Playboy*, the former Mustang Ranch, which reopened under a new name "World Famous Brothel" (Rhode Island doesn't have any brothels that I know about) at a new location near Reno, and the Moonlight Bunny Ranch near Carson City offered free sex to Iraq War veterans, and half off for other military personnel. How about that?

In Honolulu, Hawaii, during this era, there were double lines around the block on Hotel Street, from houses of prostitution that advertised on matchbooks: "The Bell Room, Give the bell a ring." They were so efficient that nearby taverns sold tokens.

Despite the prostitution, then known as the white slave traffic, despite the neighborhoods with names such as Tin Can Alley, Mosquito Flats, and Hell's Half Acre, and despite sneak thieves and

pimps, there was a certain innocence to Hotel Street, and a certain sense of order and propriety that has vanished.

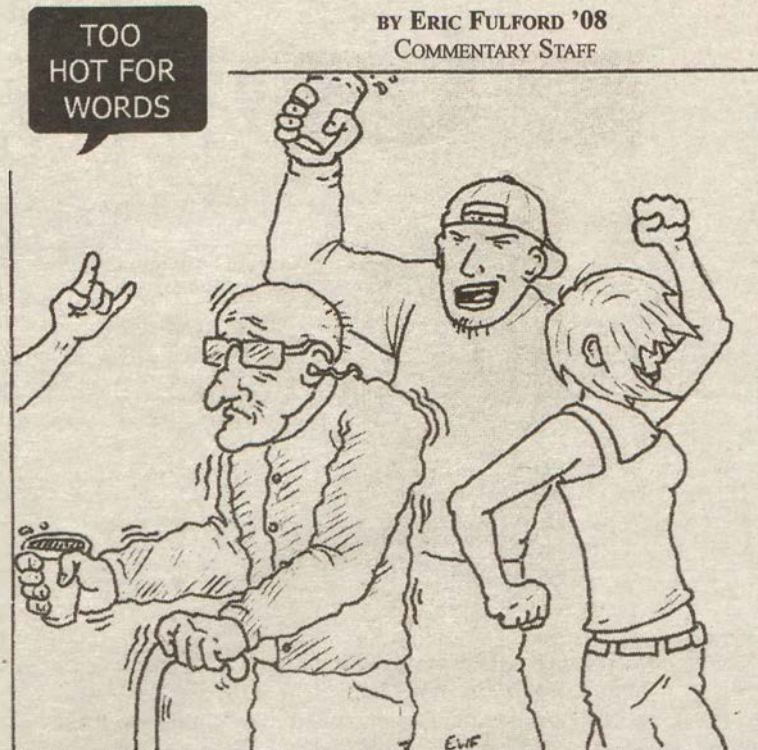
"With some fun for the lads, and a place to spend their money without too much exploitation," said Paradise of the Pacific newspaper, and that was not far from wrong.

This may sound sordid to the readers of the excellent Cowl, but this was the way it was in Hawaii during World War II. Take it or leave it, but it was a fact of life. Our military, at the time, were not choir boys. This included yours truly.

I am not condoning the 36 licensed bordellos in Nevada, but I do not think it is as harmful as some Bush officials (Vice President Richard Cheney) condoning a degree of torture. Sen. John McCain is correct, as are members of Congress by a majority, for opposing torture, which is barbaric. What is your opinion?

Watch your back, as terrorism is still with us. Support our military and God bless America. Peace.

RUSSELL P. DEMOE '73



Horace felt just a bit out of place throughout the entire alumni weekend.

Tangents and Tirades

Commentary's band of bad-news buckaroos are back in the saddle and ready to ride the mechanical bull that is life. So while the rest of you rodeo clowns bottle your petty frustrations and flip observations like sarsaparilla, we spin them around the Cowl campfire—Yee-haw.

Makeup and dorm rooms, ergonomically unsound? Santa didn't gift me with any new nail polish in my stocking this year, so when I wanted to spruce up my toes for my first night out in Providence of the new year (don't ask me why because my feet were firmly in boots) I had to make do with what I had gathering dust in my old Caboodle. I've had all these bottles since about fifth grade and they're pretty much kicked, but you would expect to be able to get the last drops out. No such luck as I discovered the brush doesn't reach the bottom of the bottle. Now two of my toes are missing coats of Silver Bullet. Whose brilliant idea was that? After being away from dorm life for a semester abroad, I was psyched to set up my room upon return at PC. Unfortunately, Residence Life provided me with one of those deathtraps o' wood known as the rocking desk chair. Although seemingly stable, one false move and it is curtains for the wall decorations you've been hanging up. Here's hoping I can exchange it for one of those ever so comfortable plastic folding chairs.
—Colleen Flynn '07

Artistic genius comes to PC Providence College will host an exhibit of works by a German artist, Joseph Beuys, who was highly influential in the arts and politics of late 20th century Europe. The show opens this Friday, Jan 27, and will run through March. A reception will be held Friday night from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m in the Reilly Gallery and all are welcome to attend—Erin Rice '06

God, did you get my text? And I thought the big guy only answered knee-mail. Finally, my prayers have been answered. As much as I love my cell phone, I always find myself deeply questioning how to deepen my faith through use of my Nokia. Luckily, Sister Julie Ann Sheahan, OSF, of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity has informed me that young Christian girls, like myself, are growing increasingly interested in downloading cell-phone rings of the songs they like. The Franciscan sisters have created a ring-tone, available for download, which they hope will inspire young women to discover and discern their unique call from God. I will never refer to e-mails appearing in my "bulk" folder as "junk mail" again. Whatever ring the sisters provide for me, I'm sure it will be more inspiring than my current ring-tone, *Black Sabbath*, off of *Black Sabbath's* hit album *Black Sabbath*.—Chris Ackley '06

Going postal Has everyone noticed the two-cent rise in stamp prices? Instead of paying the excessive cost of 37 cents per stamp, we now pay a whopping 39 cents. This change in price led to enormous lines snaking through post offices throughout America. Thousands of citizens who rely on snail mail each and every day turned out in abundance to purchase stamps, bitterly grumbling about the unfair rise in price. After counting every stamp I owned, I spent 30 minutes waiting in line for 12 two cent stamps. I spent thirty minutes waiting in line to spend twenty-four cents. I've decided to go on a budget. . . I've heard rumors that the price is going to hit 41 cents any day now. And neither wind, nor rain, nor dark of night is going to stop them from raising prices once more.—Betsy Rouleau '08

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The Cowl welcomes guest commentaries and Letters to the Editor from all members of the Providence College community, as well as outside contributors.

All submissions must include the writer's name, signature, and a phone number where they can be reached. Articles will be printed as space permits. Letters should be no more than 250 words in length. Guest commentaries should be limited to 700 words in length and only one will be published per week. *The Cowl* editorial board and its administrative supervisors reserve the right to edit articles and letters for space and clarity.

However, if there is a portion you specifically wish to remain unchanged, please inform the Editor-in-Chief. Letters to the Editor are the opinions of the writer only

and do not reflect the viewpoint of *The Cowl* staff.

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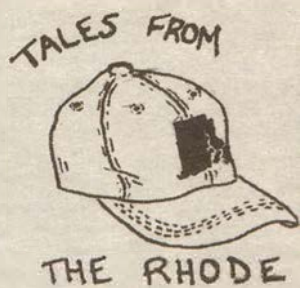
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BY CHRIS ACKLEY '06
COMMENTARY EDITOR

No, I have never seen a performance of *The Vagina Monologues*, I haven't even flipped through the play, and believe it or not, I am not a Catholic philosopher... yet. Admittedly, I have no frame of reference on this specific subject. However, I am pretty sure that any decision repressing the small sub-culture of creative people who actually try to make this campus a lively and interesting place is an absolute shame.

I must admit that Father Shanley's open letter to the community was logically argued and—in many ways—very persuasive. Although I still disagree with the final outcome, Father Shanley's method of guiding students through the decision-making process is a vast improvement from the "Because I said so," quickly scurry away from public and retire to my bedchamber before I say some-

I believe the word is pronounced 'puh-gina'

thing embarrassing method which characterized Fr. Smith's president to student interactions. It was a tough act to follow, but the new guy's doing alright.

Sax in public, illegal?

This month's *Agenda* featured an article titled "Scrooge Wears A Badge: One Cop's Crusade Against Christmas Carols." It thoroughly examines the assault and incarceration of a Providence favorite "Saxophone Joe." Many of you probably know Joe. If you have ever been to Thayer Street, he has most likely serenaded you with some sweet jazz music. The story paints the confrontation as an abuse of power and a clear case of police brutality.

Although I have my own problems with the police, the skeptic in me would usually read this story from a notoriously liberal publication with some reservation. However, because my own roommate spent that same night in police custody right next to Joe, he heard the story first-hand, weeks before it appeared in *The Agenda*.

Perhaps it is not that surprising that my roommate too was the subject of police brutality that very same night. I

guess Providence Police really have nothing better to do than fondle their pistols in the Dunkin' Donuts drive-through, harass old black men, and pull over kids on bikes for failing to use turn signals while going straight. These are two random, but not unrelated incidents. Protect and serve, right?

Taco truck dreams

In one of those classic, follow-your-bliss success stories, Taqueria Pacifica restaurant recently opened on Empire Street, all but sharing the same space with AS220, the city's most powerful independent music venue. TP's slogan is "West-coast food for East-coast dudes" and I guarantee anybody with their hands around a black bean burrito with cumin-lime sour cream is a happy camper.

Taqueria Pacifica is more affectionately known as "The Taco Truck" because before settling down to a permanent home, the guacamole-green-painted ice cream truck roamed the west end of Providence slinging tacos, quesadillas, and the like. Tyler Long—a native of Washington State—started the business in the summer of 2004 because he thought it would be great to feed his bud-

dies Mexican food all over the city. With basically no formal advertising, word of mouth quickly made the Taco Truck the hottest eatery on four wheels. In turn, The Taco Truck has shown its commitment to the local scene by using locally grown ingredients from City Farm and Red Planet Organic (two small farms based in Providence) and also keeping drunken kickballers from the Providence Kickball League well fed.

With TP expanding their operations at a truly promising location, this story proves that doing what you want to do, whether it is drawing comics, making chewing-gum, or driving around in a truck with some dynamite homemade salsa, can lead to happiness and success. That is, if you don't already believe they are one and the same.

Biltmore to Last

The best thing we can do to fight the creative injustices occurring at PC is support our local artists. I encourage anyone who gives a damn to check out the Biltmores and City Heroic playing at McPhails this Saturday night at 9:00 p.m. We'll get together and talk about it.



BY ADAM D. ROACH '06
COMMENTARY STAFF

One must ask why Father Shanley would feel emboldened enough to censor *The Vagina Monologues* and not be concerned with a possible backlash of outrage from concerned alumni. In order to begin to answer that question, consider what the case would be if, perhaps, the unnamed Suites Hall were now named Eve Ensler (the author of the *Monologues*) Hall. Would this debate even be taking place?

Quite frankly, those Providence College alumni who would come to the defense of the cast and producers of *The Vagina Monologues* do not because they were either scorned by the systematic censorship that has taken place on this campus before, and therefore would not think to contribute to the College, or they are those of limited means and do not have the income to contribute to their alma mater. On the other hand, those who can contribute to the College find security in the status quo. Make no mistake: the interests of the students were held at

Making cents of the 'V'-bate

a lower priority in the making of this decision than the interests of powerful individuals with tremendous influence. And the y wonder why PC's endowment is so small.

Father Shanley justified his decision with lackluster analysis of the work, based on text and not performance, in which he isolated certain scenes from the play and even, laughably, a blurb from the back of the print version, to show how the play runs counter to the College's mission statement. The play can not be understood when analyzed piecewise, but must be understood as a powerful and diverse mosaic that empowers women worldwide.

The real losers in this situation were not the alumni, the faculty, staff, and students, or even the cast: the real losers were those battered and vulnerable women who find safety and shelter in the contributions made to the Sojourner House through the annual Providence College V-Day production. Consequently, I stand in solidarity with the cast of the *Monologues* in steadfast opposition to Father Shanley's decision.

Providence College fights uphill battle in curbing costs

BY TERENCE SWEENEY '06
COMMENTARY STAFF

Academic institutions are founded with basic aims that form the foundation of all subsequent actions. These goals infuse the college with its fundamental meanings and should be the grounds by which that school is judged.

While all universities share basic common grounds PC has certain original goals that separate it from other schools. These unique attributes need to be maintained, enriched, and defended. Providence College was founded as a Catholic Dominican school, and must continue to uphold the values that flow from the school's core beliefs. But the school was also founded as an institution dedicated to raising people up out of difficult circumstances.

Specifically, PC was meant to be an institution where poor Catholics would have the opportunity to receive a quality education. If a school is to be judged by its ability to uphold and fulfill its original goals then—sadly—PC has not been accomplishing its intended mission as of late.

Providence College on the whole has done a good job maintaining its Catholic values (although much must be done on that front) and has become an excellent place for academic and social growth. In this way PC has continued to be a school with a praiseworthy counter-cultural streak, but regrettably our school has not been willing or able to reject the money driven malaise that afflicts American collegiate life.

In the past 40 years college costs have risen at a rate of 7.2%—substantially more than the rate of general inflation (4.4%). This growth is expected to continue at the same rate if not higher. In addition, a college education is increasingly necessary for people to prosper in our information-focused economy.

This state of affairs is worsened by government cuts to programs that offer need-based loans and grants to students. There are many causes that have led to the rise in tuition, but a great source is the greater demand of students for fancier, newer, and more luxurious accommodations. This includes dorms, gyms, and student centers.

Providence College, a school started to give the poor a chance to receive an education, proves little different than other schools on this issue. PC's tuition

has been rising steadily, but Providence College on the whole has been better than its rivals, keeping its tuition lower and financial-aid higher than competing schools.

Nonetheless, Providence College's tuition is still absurdly high. And steps need to be taken to prevent a continuation of this trend. Providence College under Rev. Brian Shanley O.P.'s leadership should not focus itself on adding flashy new buildings. Rather, our school should dedicate itself to keeping our tuition growth lower than it is with the goal of growing at the same rate as inflation. Our school must have the economic courage to raise money with the express goal of slowing tuition growth and—even more importantly—increasing need-based scholarships.

The focus of Providence College's fundraising throughout the next several years will be primarily on increasing its endowment. This is an important part of making PC an affordable school. But why not have a whole fundraising drive dedicated to need based scholarships? It will be PC's opportunity to say that education is important to all segments of the population even if not everyone can afford it.

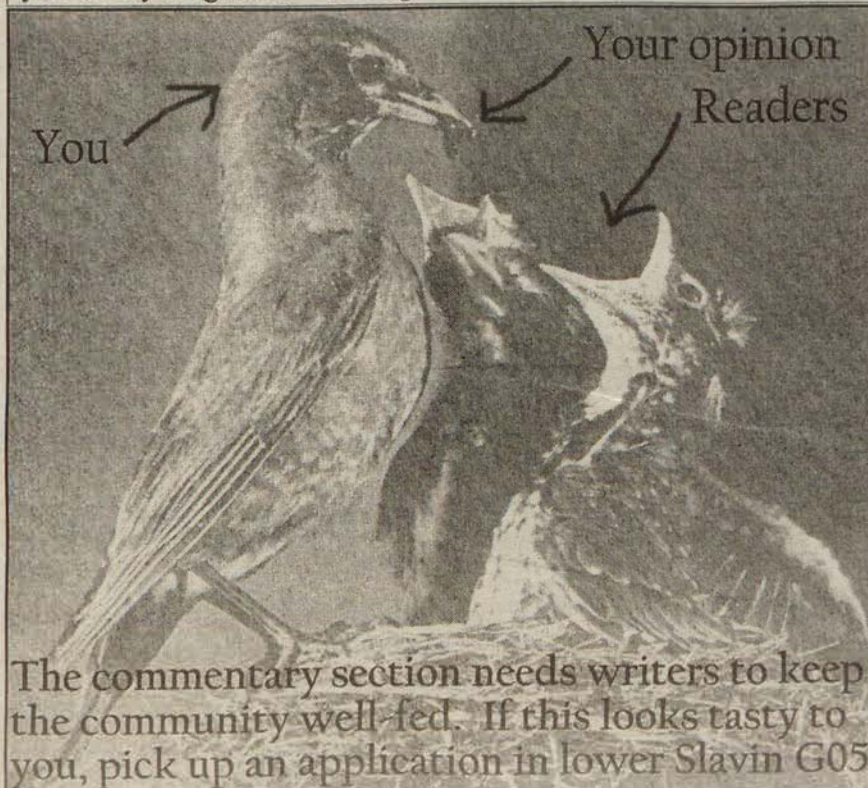
Important steps have been taken recently to change the economic situation at PC including the school's greater focus on need-based scholarship—Phillip J. Whitcome's generous donation of \$5.2 million and Father Shanley's emphasis on our school's mission of providing affordable education. This is an important sign, but more can be done.

If Providence College were to truly attempt to lower costs and increase scholarships through alumni contribution and efficient expenditures we could truly inspire a changed view of higher education. College should be dedicated to finding and promulgating wisdom. This can only be done if people have the opportunity to study. This is especially important because there is such a large population of lower income, Catholic, immigrant Hispanics. Providence College has a great opportunity to reach out to this community as it did to the Irish, Italian, and Portuguese communities of the past.

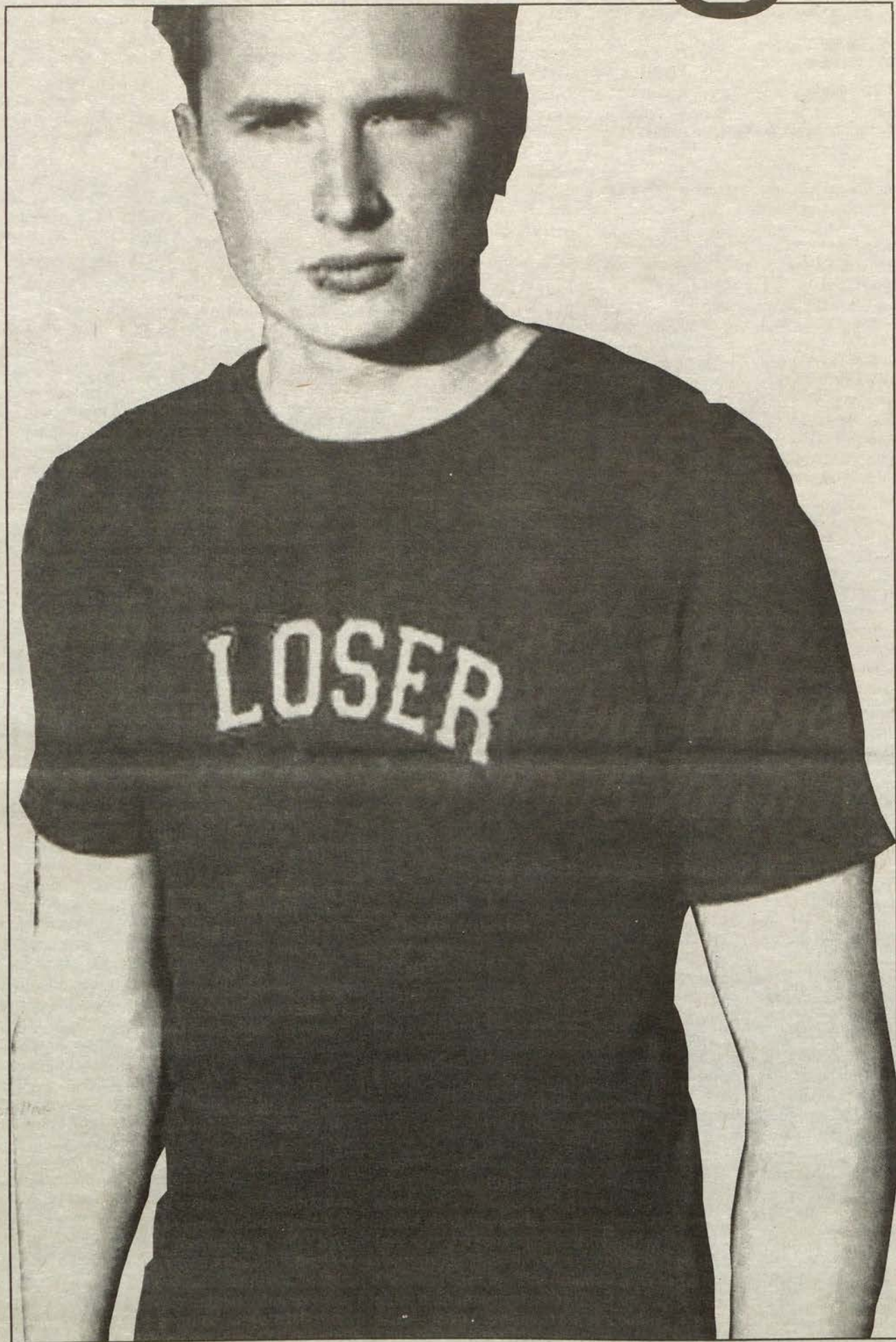
Moving toward affordable education must occur in the United States and Providence College should be bold enough to try to lead the way.

Source: www.360financialliteracy.org

Correction: In the Dec. 8 issue of *The Cowl*, Smith Hill was incorrectly referred to as Smithfield in the article entitled, "Won't you be my neighbor?" We regret the error.



Roving



It's all about starting at the bottom

Got questions? Well, we have an answer. Ask those questions! Come join the Roving section of *The Cowl*. It's tons of fun and you can make lots of new friends. Applications are available in Slavin G05.

Globes, 24-carat predictor?

BY KATIE LEVINE '07
A&E STAFF

Directors, producers, actors—anyone involved in the entertainment industry—all toss and turn in their beds at night as the year comes to a close, dreaming of success as two of the most prestigious, glamorous, and star-studded nights in Hollywood approach: the Golden Globes and the Academy Awards. Nominees modestly praise their competition while secretly writing an acceptance speech for that special night (just in case), cross their fingers, and hope their hard work pays off. But so far this year, a lucky few have already started to pull ahead in this prestigious race for recognition.

This year's awards season began on Dec. 13 with the announcement of the nominees for the 2006 Golden Globes awards and continued with a ceremony honoring the winners on Jan. 16. The Golden Globes are organized by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), a non-profit organization of Los Angeles-based journalists who work for overseas publications. Their mission is to recognize outstanding work in the entertainment industry—including film and television—while encouraging the industry to grow through charity work and education.

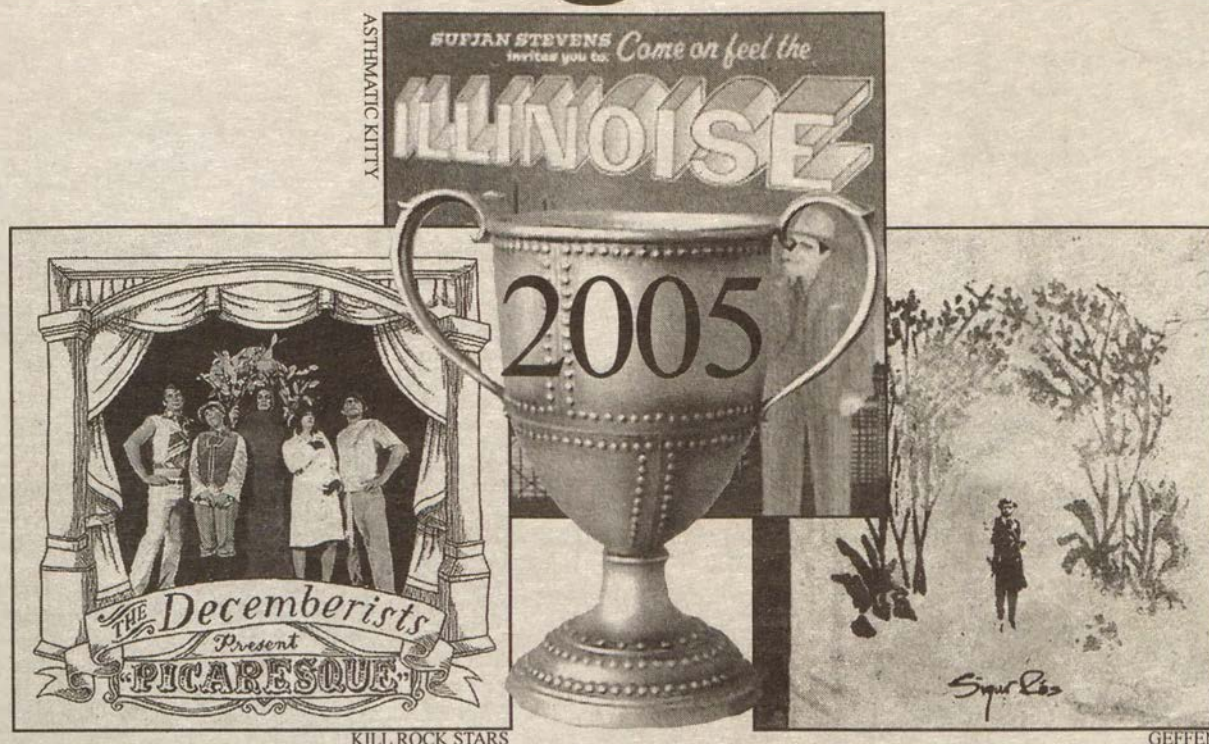
Their membership represents 55 countries and its 84 members give Golden Globes to those they believe to be the best in the entertainment industry. They have a unique way of awarding film honors in two categories: Drama and Musical or Comedy. This year, the HFPA nominated *Brokeback Mountain*; *The Constant Gardener*; *Good Night, and Good Luck*; *A History of Violence*; and *Match Point* in the Best Picture—Drama category. *Mrs. Henderson Presents*; *Pride and Prejudice*; *The Producers*; *The Squid and the Whale*; and *Walk the Line* were nominated for Best Picture—Musical or Comedy.

The Golden Globes are second in prestige only to the Oscars themselves, and especially in recent years, they have developed an uncanny way of predicting the results of the Academy Awards, which are set for Sunday, March 5. According to E! Online, since 1980 more than 75 percent of Golden Globe winners have gone on to win an Oscar. They have come to be the best predictor of what films the Academy will choose at awards time. The approval of the HFPA gives a movie helpful momentum and publicity, especially since the Golden Globes are awarded just when the Academy is voting for its nominees. Accordingly, those who win or are nominated for Golden Globes have an advantage—which is why the results of these awards are extremely significant in Hollywood.

And this year's Golden Globe winners are . . . *Brokeback Mountain* and *Walk the Line* won for best pictures. Felicity Huffman (*Transamerica*) and Philip Seymour Hoffman (*Capote*) were awarded for best acting in the Drama category, while Reese Witherspoon and Joaquin Phoenix (*Walk the Line*) won in the Musical or Comedy Genre. Ang Lee took Best Director for *Brokeback Mountain*, which seems unstoppable

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Unsung Heroes



They may have fallen under your radar, but these are the albums of 2005 you have to check out

BY JOE MCCORMACK '07
A&E STAFF

3. The Decemberists *Picaresque* Kill Rock Stars

Colin Meloy and company have a knack for making a ruckus. With violins, various organs and keyboards, and the occasional accordion accompanying the accustomed guitarbassdrums, there are moments on *Picaresque* where Meloy's vastly literary and exotic lyrics, the sundry instrumentation, and the driving force of the band's animated rhythms nearly overwhelm the listener. Organs and violins and a vaguely Indian mood accompany Meloy's lyrics in "The Infanta," a parade of striking figures, riding camels and elephants, coming to praise a child. "The Sporting Life" romps along to lyrics about athletic ineptitude and parental disappointment.

The most arresting feature of the album, however, is Meloy's ability to sketch a story effortlessly in only a few lines. The band fills the canvas on "We Both Go Down Together," perfectly complementing Meloy's words: "You came from parents wanton/A childhood rough and rotten/I come from wealth and beauty./Untouched by work or duty." Perhaps the most beautiful song on the album is "Eli the Barrow Boy." Over sparse acoustic guitars and melodic bass, with the dulcet voice of violin player Rachel Blumberg behind him, Meloy mourns: "Eli, the barrow boy, when they found him/Dressed all in corduroy, he had drowned in the river down the way."

The Decemberists typify the great Indie Rock of this decade: they don't sound like anything else I've ever heard, they intrigue your mind while pulling at

your heart, they use the tools at their disposal to avoid repeating themselves, they're solid musicians, they sound great live, and they write fantastic lyrics.

2. Sigur Rós *Takk...* Geffen Records

The release of *Takk...* in 2005 fulfilled the expectations set by 1999's *Ágætis Byrjun*, in which the Icelandic band rewrote expectations of the mood, melodic beauty, and intensity of Landscape-Rock. After the release of the meandering () in 2002 and several movie soundtracks, many critics had Sigur Rós pegged as background music: pretty, but flat. *Takk...* crushed those presumptions.

The band triumphantly returned to melody and focused their intensity to live up to Ágætis Byrjun's expectations. They accomplished this they way they always have: inspired songwriting, instrumentation, arrangement, a keen sense of the moment, and Jónsi's sincere vocals, not flashy technology or rock-star image. *Takk...* feels wet like an Iceland Spring, hard like the cold inevitability of glaciation, curious like children's games, and heroic like the greatest fairy tales. Tracks like "Sæglópur" and "Gong" drip with intensity while "Glósóli" and "Hoppipolla" wrap the listener with maternal arms.

1. Sufjan Stevens *Illinois* Asthmatic Kitty

Celebration: it's not something you hear often. I'm not talking about "Let's have a PARTY!" music, nor existential intellectual musings about choice within nothingness, nor "sheepish sentimentality." Sufjan Stevens celebrates purely the state of Illinois in this album bearing the same name. He manages to express the essence of the state: its character, its

people, its history.

The album explodes with the third track, an urban ode called "Come On! Feel the Illinois!" Piano, strings, trumpet, and a boy's choir create a sound that is at once modern and traditional, urban and pastoral, rhythmic and lush. This is not a children's choir in the Modern-Pop sense used to guilt you into buying shoes or something like that; this is a crisp boy's choir, singing lines like "If you got the patience, celebrate the ancients/Cannot all creation call it celebration" in a quick staccato. This dynamic instrumentation continues on songs like "Chicago," "The Man of Metropolis Steals Our Hearts," and others. These songs capture the sense of the civilization building a "great white city," with great heroes and artistic triumphs: a monument against chaos and barbarism.

The other side of Illinois is the small, the strange, the vile, the fragile, and the beautiful. The opening track is a sweet folk song about a UFO sighting. Fourth is a claustrophobically gorgeous folk song called "John Wayne Gacy, Jr." about the famed serial killer. The lyrics are chilling and vivid, full of horror and sympathy. "Jacksonville" and "Decatur" are blues romps about the simple life in Illinois and its history, calling on Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, and Steven A. Douglas.

The centerpiece of the album is "Casimir Pulaski Day," an ode to a childhood sweetheart lost to cancer. Over simple guitar and sparse banjo, Stevens' tender, honest tenor frames the tender, honest love and the lack of answers in the face of illness. "On the floor . . . I am crying in the bathroom./In the morning when you finally go,/and the nurse runs in with her head hung low." This is the love that is the backbone of every ounce of celebration in the album. It is a celebration of loving, building, fragile humanity in all its glory and in all its weakness.

Picks of the Week

BY STEPHANIE A. SMITH '06
A&E EDITOR



Movie

Fantasia
Directed by James Algar

I might be the only person in this area code who likes to watch this movie. I saw it once when it was playing in a theater and had to leave half-way through because my companions were bored to tears. I thought it was magical. And, to this day, whenever I hear Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring" I think of many, many brontosaurus falling to their death.

Music

Billy Joel
The Stranger
Sony

Billy is the master and *The Stranger* features a lot of his more popular songs—you know, the ones that are always played at Louie's. Classics like "Scenes from an Italian Restaurant" and "Only the Good Die Young" saddle up right next to quintessential Billy Joel honest ballads like "She's Always a Woman." Also on there is my parents' wedding song, "Just the Way You Are," which is just one of many reasons to buy this CD.



The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald
By F. Scott Fitzgerald

Books of short stories are great for when you don't have time to read a whole novel but US Weekly just isn't doing it for you. Fitzgerald is one of my favorite writers because of his ability to turn a simple story into something beautiful. His lengthy descriptions and meticulous attention to detail seem to make the most ordinary of situations sparkle.

All the Jive in 2005

From the surprising alliance between Jay-Z and Nas to the success of concerts in Providence, hip-hop rocked 2005

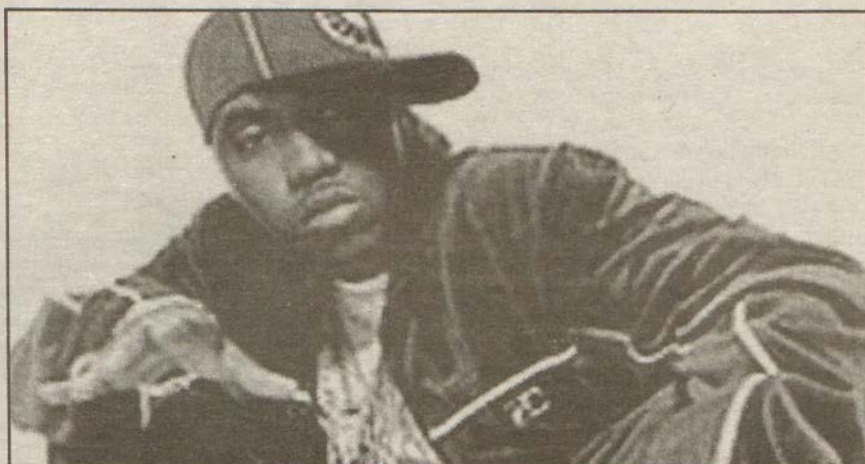
BY RYAN BURNS '08
A&E STAFF

Without question, 2005 was a tumultuous year in the world of hip-hop. For every good event that occurred, there was an equally bad and almost embarrassing one. Probably the biggest story of 2005, according to the mainstream media, was 50 Cent's domination of the airwaves and affinity for starting trouble. 50 and G-Unit records made some serious moves this year, signing veteran groups like Mobb Deep and M.O.P., new artists like Spider Loc, and even brought Mase back. Yes that's right, the same Mase who ran to Atlanta in the late 90s and became a minister, vowing to give up his old lifestyle. The new Mase has gone back to his Harlem ways in recent months, becoming the most vulgar reverend of all-time. 50 and ex-G-Unit member and labelmate The Game went four times platinum off the strength of having 50 appear on the first three singles. Recently, however, The Game has been releasing song after song that attacks 50. The beef has gotten to such a ridiculous level that it reminds hip-hop fans of some sort of WWF style confrontation.

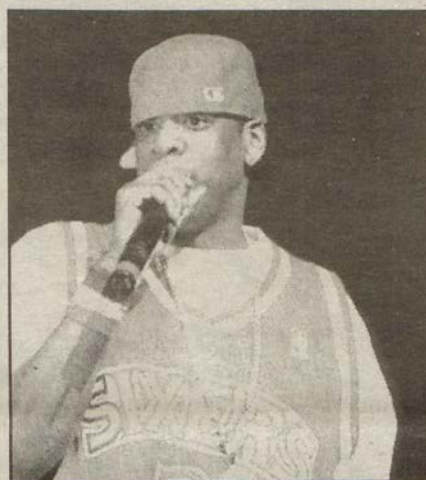
2005 YEAR IN REVIEW

Another huge story was Jay-Z's reunion with his old foe Nas. When Jay-Z was set to appear in Philadelphia, the fans knew they were in for a surprise. When Jay-Z brought out Nas however, the entire crowd lost its mind. He performed "Dead Presidents" with Nas performing the chorus in front of the stunned crowd. They are rumored to be close to recording a collaboration later this year. The video clip of this historic moment can be found online and if you haven't seen it already, I suggest you check it out.

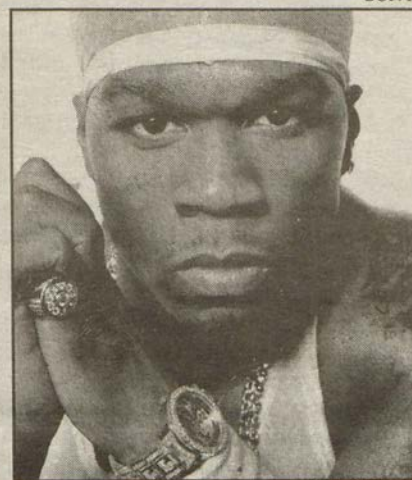
Moreover, 2005 saw some truly great new releases from new artists as well as seasoned veterans. AZ released his fifth solo album entitled *AWOL*, cementing his status as one of the most underrated emcees ever. North Carolina natives Little Brother came out with a critically acclaimed but horribly promoted second album called *The Minstrel Show*, where they took shots at the mainstream characteristics and modern trends of today's hip-hop culture. Slum Village also released arguably their best album since their debut. This self-titled album, while only 13 tracks long, showcased a new sound for the group, experimenting with live instruments and new producers. Speaking of



SONY



DEF JAM



INTERSCOPE

Who's afraid of 50 Cent?: In 2005, (clockwise from top) Nas, 50 Cent, and Jay-Z all made the kind of headlines that kept hip-hop in the public's eye. Rhode Island, especially, experienced a great year in hip-hop as shows from Talib Kweli, Mos Def, and others came to the biggest little state in the union.

new sounds, MF Doom and producer DangerMouse collaborated to form *DangerDoom*, an album featuring guests like Ghostface, Talib Kweli, and Cee-Lo Green. This album was also very popular on the Internet and underground hip-hop circuit, earning a great deal of positive reviews and feedback. Def Jam's Juelz Santana released *What The Game's Been Missing* and did a good job stepping out of mentor Cam'Ron's shadow in his second album.

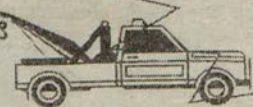
2005 was a great concert year in the New England area. Appearances by Ghostface, Little Brother, Atmosphere, Talib Kweli, Mos Def, Pharoah Monch, Jean Grae, and K'Naan this fall alone set the stage for more great acts to hit Providence in 2006. The response from the crowd for all of these shows was great, and it truly illustrated how Rhode Island

has a great deal of respect and love for the hip-hop scene. Wu-Tang has been touring recently and is doing a show in Worcester on Feb. 8 as well.

Last year also gave birth to a new location on the hip-hop map, Houston. Rappers like Mike Jones, Slim Thug, and Paul Wall really changed the face of mainstream hip-hop. Their hard bass lines and hand clap snares have become a staple and a formula for success for artists trying to make that next big hit.

While 2005 was both marred with controversy and beef, it was also one of the best years for hip-hop in terms of great releases and new artists making noise on the underground scene as well in the mainstream. Hip-hop has never had more media attention than it does right now and that certainly will not change in 2006.

Attention: Students with Cars on Campus



Effective immediately, Officers of the Safety & Security Department will be "ticketing" and "towing" any vehicle found parked on campus without a valid parking sticker.

Any student with a car on campus not displaying a valid permit is advised to make arrangements to have this car taken home or off campus.

Students are strongly advised to adhere to parking regulations on campus to prevent costly ticket and towing fees.

There will be no more parking passes issued, as parking on campus is at full capacity.

The Providence College Safety & Security Department

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The contenders . . .

Your guide to the films that could grab the Oscars this year

BY JAMES MCGEEHEE '08
ASST. A&E EDITOR

Finding a good January movie is as hard as finding burnable crude oil among a barrel's slimy bottom residue. To begin a year, Hollywood drains its sewage tank storehouses into America's cinema multiplexes. Unlike the Dave

Matthews Band tour bus that last year stopped on a bridge to drain its sewage onto an unsuspecting tour boat, Hollywood is not fined. Still, many movie lovers claim January is the best month for seeing older movies—and they are not misinformed. Studios release what they consider their best product in December so as to be in contention for an Oscar come March's Academy Awards ceremony. Nearly all these films are at (or coming to) a theatre near you this January, the month not to rush out to a new release, but to catch up on December's golden ticket features.

The big talk Oscar frontrunner is *Brokeback Mountain*, about two cowboys who begin a secret romance one summer while sheepherding in the mountains of Wyoming. Their feelings for each other persist, even after they marry and have children. Heath Ledger plays the taciturn Ennis Delmar, a man whose upbringing has conditioned him to hate his love for Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal), an obnoxious rodeo rider. *Brokeback Mountain* is tedious at times, because it leads to the forlorn conclusion we all anticipate long before its end. Yet, for all the buzz surrounding this "socially significant" and "important" story, *Brokeback's* makers have handled its characters and themes honestly and without much fanfare.

Munich, about a secret team of Mossad agents organized to deliver vengeance upon those terrorists who planned the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the



Why can't we be friends?: Heath Ledger (above left) and Jake Gyllenhaal (above right) struggle to conceal their love in *Brokeback Mountain*, while Thandie Newton (right) and Matt Dillon deal with issues of race and common humanity in 2004's *Crash*.

1972 Olympics, is receiving less attention than it deserves. This is Spielberg at his most brutal and uncompromising. Since critics cannot throw their usual critique at Spielberg—that he wears his heart on his sleeve—here they accuse his film of "moral equivalency." Yes, Spielberg asks difficult questions without giving any answers, but he never abandons hope. When the Israeli assassins are forced to spend the night with a group of Palestinians, the two diametrically opposed groups manage to resolve a dispute over what radio station they will listen to. You won't find a better scene in any movie last year.

With a tiny production budget of



LIONS GATE

seven million dollars, the unknown Bennett Miller directed Dan Futterman's script for *Capote* into one of 2005's best movies. *Capote* begins more as a showcase for Philip Seymour Hoffman in the lead as Truman Capote, the famed author of *In Cold Blood*. Hoffman's performance is hands down the best of the year. If the first act is mediocre, the last two acts border on perfection in revealing a narcissist's soul being torn apart by conflicting desires as he pens *In Cold Blood*.

Critics are calling Woody Allen's new film, *Match Point*, his comeback. Set in blustery London, England, the ex-tennis pro Chris Wilton (Jonathan Rhys

Meyers) engages in a dangerous affair with the seductive Nola Rice (Scarlett Johansson, beautiful as always). When the affair threatens to jeopardize his newfound social status, Chris must make some critical and passion-driven decisions that will affect his entire existence. *Match Point* is the sort of film where it is best not to know too many details before seeing it.

The last four Best Picture winners were December releases. But once in a while a film from earlier in the year gains so much momentum it is still rolling come time to mention Oscar contenders. There are two such movies from 2005.

The first is *Crash*, a film structured as a series of interlocking vignettes. When asked what *Crash* is about, many answer with one word: racism. This is an unjust oversimplification. If I had to simplify *Crash* to one word, I would choose humanity. Roger Ebert has said *Crash* is the one film from 2005 that has the power to make us better people. And I would agree.

The second is *Cinderella Man*, the triumphant story of Depression-era boxer Jim Braddock. *Cinderella Man* may not avoid the cliché of the sports genre, but its strength lies in its depiction of a struggling family man. Paul Giamatti's turn as the manager is the supporting performance of the year.

Although its chances at an Oscar are slim, one cannot ignore Peter Jackson's epic *King Kong* when speaking of the year's best films. When Carl Denham (Jack Black) travels to a secret island to shoot his new film, his leading lady Ann Darrow (Naomi Watts) is captured by an enormous gorilla. To save herself, Ann amuses Kong with some vaudeville tricks. Kong's would-be next meal becomes his only friend. First with Gollum (and Sméagol), and now with Kong, Jackson has managed to put heart and soul into computer-generated characters.

Globes: With one you're golden

continued from page 15

with a total four Golden Globes (Best Picture—Drama, Best Director, Best Screenplay, and Best Original Song). George Clooney (*Syriana*) and Rachel Weisz (*The Constant Gardener*) were recognized as Best Supporting Actor and Actress. This lucky and talented group has received a head start in the race for an Academy Award.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is the prestigious group behind the Oscars. They are an assem-

bly of approximately 6,000 motion picture professionals whose membership is based on high quality film credits, receipt of an Academy Award nomination, or making an outstanding contribution to film. The nomination and selection of winners is done by secret ballot under the strict supervision of auditors at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and the winners are not revealed until the envelopes are opened by the presenters on awards night. However, the nominations are announced on Jan. 31 at 5:30 a.m. PST.

And until then all anyone can do is guess. The Golden Globes' role as a forecaster for the most famous of all award shows is getting stronger with each passing year, as the HFPA makes more and more accurate choices, particularly in the Best Picture Category. However, the deck is a little stacked in their favor, since the HFPA chooses a winner in the drama and the musical or comedy category, while the Academy only chooses one film from any genre for its top prize. With two opportunities to get it right,

their chance of being accurate is twice as likely.

Things are looking good for *Brokeback Mountain* and *Walk the Line* after the Golden Globes, but there are some late starters in the race, like *Munich* and *Match Point*, whose nominations from the HFPA might just give them the extra adrenaline they need in the middle of the race to pull them through as a winner in March—and don't count out underdogs like *The Constant Gardener*, or *Capote*.

And the Globe winners are . . .

Best Picture, Drama: *Brokeback Mountain*

Best Actress, Drama: Felicity Huffman, *Transamerica*

Best Actor, Drama: Philip Seymour Hoffman, *Capote*

Best Picture, Musical or Comedy: *Walk the Line*

Best Actress, Musical or Comedy: Reese Witherspoon, *Walk the Line*

Best Actor, Musical or Comedy: Joaquin Phoenix, *Walk the Line*

Best Supporting Actress: Rachel Weisz, *The Constant Gardener*

Best Supporting Actor: George Clooney, *Syriana*

Best Director: Ang Lee, *Brokeback Mountain*

Best Screenplay: Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, *Brokeback Mountain*

Best Foreign Language Film: *Paradise Now*, Palestine

Best Original Score: John Williams, *Memoirs of a Geisha*

Best Original Song: "A Love That Will Never Grow Old" from *Brokeback Mountain*



A visit to Black Rep

BY ANNA KUKOWSKI '06
A&E STAFF

"The Providence Black Repertory Company produces and presents artistic performances that bring people together, provoke thought, inspire hope, and create understanding."—Providence Black Repertory Theater, Mission Statement.

From live music to theater, from diversity to enlightenment, from new subject matter to old classics, the Black Repertory Theater in downtown Providence offers a new and different scene to the novice or seasoned theater lover.

The first time I went to the Black Rep Theater was two years ago, at the start of the second semester. I decided to review *Lady Day* at the Emerson Bar and Grill at the Black Rep, a theater I hadn't been to before.

Pen and paper poised, I quickly nestled into fairly large, very comfortable chair ready to watch the play (my kind of atmosphere). Next to me on the small balcony was a collection of chairs and couches; below me were small, coffee shop-like tables and long, narrow booths.

The entranceway had large, earthy-toned chairs, low music, and an inviting bar. On a small stage, a pianist and an actress played out in words and in notes the life of Billie Holiday to an interested audience. There were couples, friends, families, and those who came by themselves to learn Holiday's sad story.

My experiences since then? The Black Rep has been classy, contemporary, enlightening, and very worth it.

As I have traveled through my journey at Providence College, I have had the pleasure of visiting the Black Rep for a few more theater performances. I have valued my opportunities to review performances at the Black Rep, and enjoyed writing about them for the Providence College community.

This upcoming semester, there are plenty of opportunities to explore the Black Rep depending on your tastes and interests.

From Feb. 2 to March 12, Don Mays will direct *Yellowman* by Dael Orlandersmith. *Yellowman*, a 2002 Pulitzer Prize Finalist, tells the story of childhood sweethearts who dream of getting out of their small town to make it big in the city, but face challenges along the way. Curl up on a couch, buy



BLACK REP
Scenes from the Providence Black Repertory Theater: A group of actors present a scene at Black Rep, which includes in its theater a bar, couches, and comfy lounge chairs.

yourself a mojito—or a Sprite—and enjoy as the story unfolds. Also, watch for impromptu play and poetry readings on the Web site.

In addition to theater, the Black Rep also has a thriving music scene. The Xxodus Café, the music division of the Black Rep, features different musical events each night. From open mic night on Mondays (poets, playwrights, musicians) to Latin Jazz on Wednesdays to hip-hop on Thursdays, there are differ-

ent styles for each person.

As college students in this small, cultural city, we have many opportunities to delve into different types of things. Providence has a wide cross-section of theater, music, and artistic venues—and the Black Rep is one of the highlights.

An organization like the Black Repertory Theater is vital to the cultural and artistic development of the city of Providence, and a wonderful addition to our college journey.

A stormy 2006 hip-hop forecast

BY MIKE HOLLAND '06
A&E STAFF

As much as hip-hop music continued to impact popular culture in 2005, it seems as though 2006 could merit even more attention and influence. While 2005 introduced and elevated many new artists and diverse sounds, 2006 points toward a return to the older, more experienced sound provided by some of hip-hop's seasoned heavyweights.

Most anticipated this year is the re-emergence of the street-based, esoteric element of rap music solidified by the various members of the Wu-tang Clan. Veterans Ghostface Killah and Raekwon will both release new solo albums in the '06 that points to their collective maturation. Ghostface's *Fishscale* shows promise with production contributions from both MF Doom and Pete Rock. Raekwon, too, looks for experienced production help from specialists RZA and



Dr. Dre on his *Cuban Linx Part II*.

Eclipsing both of these solo ventures, however, is their collective assemblage on the Wu-tang Reunion Tour. All living members will be included at Boston's own Palladium Nightclub on Feb. 8 and 9. Do not sleep on this once in a lifetime chance to check out one of hip-hop's most influential ensemble.

Another hip-hop legend embarking on his own solo project is Black Thought, the prodigious emcee from the Roots. While the soulful and organic instrumentals that usually background his calm, clean flow will be missed, the

You won't believe your pupils, it's Dilated Peoples! Their upcoming release, 20/20, has been met with high expectations.

album will be worthwhile. Production is still under speculation, but rumors are pointing toward Dangermouse.

Hoping to ride the success of other Chicago-based artists like Common and Kanye West will be Rhymefest and his debut album, *Blue Collar*. With a similar beat selection, but a much more street-based lyrical wit, Rhymefest has the potential to elevate the status of Chicago hip-hop.

Dilated Peoples hope to keep their firm grip on the underground circuit with their newest upcoming release, 20/20. They will be pushing the new album

throughout their 2006 tour featuring Little Brother.

Slightly less anticipated will be the release of Cam'ron's newest album, *Killa Seasons*. This time around Dipset's front man calls out none other than the recently-retired Jay-Z on two rather ridiculous battle tracks. Cam'ron belittles the hip-hop giant for stealing Roc-A-Fella, Rocawear and even Kanye West from Damon Dash. The question remains whether or not Cam'ron really has it out for Jay-Z or is using the battle as a publicity push.

Even more talked about is whether or not Jay-Z will respond. If you ask me, it's not worth it. Who really cares anyway?

So there it is. 2006: a year of reunion tours, debuts, collaborations, and battle raps. What else could you expect from hip-hop? I hope the focus will remain consistent with hip-hop's original intent of spreading authentic culture through music and lyrics. If so, there could be nothing else left desired.

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Traffic jams, coffeemakers, and the perks of getting fired

BY JENNIFER McCAFFERTY '07
PORTFOLIO STAFF

Jake pulled the car door shut, started the ignition, and sighed resignedly before attempting to pull out into the pre-traffic traffic of neighbors making their

SHORT
STORY

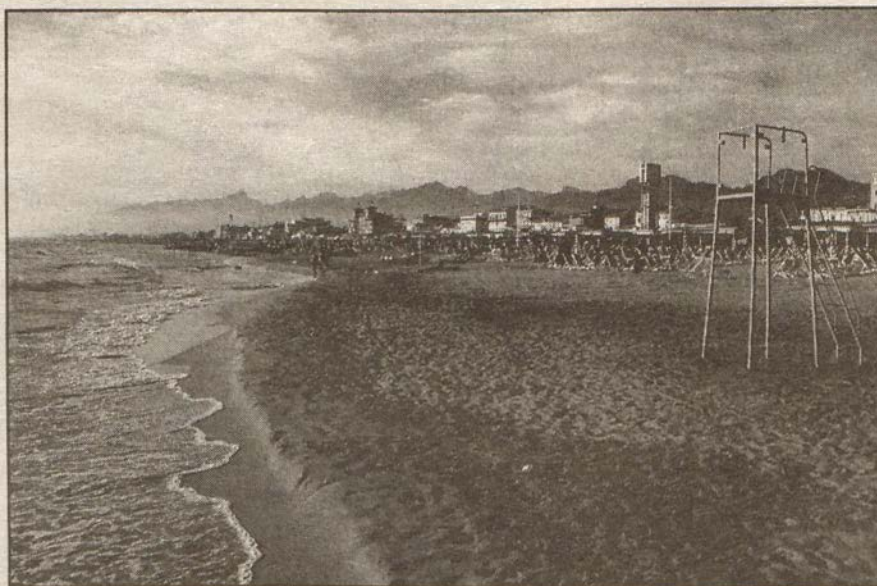
way to more important roads that would take them to various employments around the city.

It was going to be one of those days.

His suspicion was promptly confirmed when, after managing to merge into the stream of cars without getting killed, there was a wreck at an intersection three blocks ahead. At first, he thought the delay was due to the regular morning backup, but the normally brief pause developed into a standstill that lasted 45 minutes and was the highlight of the morning traffic report on every radio station in the area.

While he sat, he thought of how his boss was inevitably going to tear him apart. The head of an important city magazine, Mr. Sanders thought it very important that every single employee be on time and constantly doing something, no matter how stupid that something might be. This irritated Jake. After all, he was nothing more than an intern, and an unnecessary one at that. Mr. Sanders had hired Jake only because he had been friends with Jake's father, and Jake's father thought it was important that his son get experience in the working world before graduating from college.

Jake didn't exactly disagree with his father, but he felt horribly awkward around the other interns. All of them (Jake included) knew he had no business



TIM PISACICH '07/The Cowl

working with those who had earned their titles. Mr. Sanders knew this, too, and let the others do actual work, while Jake usually found himself in a position he privately referred to as "Perpetual Office Coffee Slave."

It wasn't always so bad. Every so often, someone would call in sick, and Jake would get to leave his post by the coffeemaker. One time, he was told to do some fact-checking, calling restaurants that were to be featured in an upcoming review and making sure the writers had gotten everything right. On this particular day, he ended up having an hour-long conversation with an old Italian man who had come to the states 40 years ago and had recently opened a little restaurant where he served his favorite traditional dishes. The man was

extremely talkative. Not only did he tell Jake that the writer had indeed spelled his name correctly, but he also told him that his mother had been afraid of birds but loved the taste of chicken, his daughter was pregnant with her third child, and the best thing he had done since coming to America had been totally out of character for him.

"One day, I couldn't handle the stress of work. So I walked out, got on a train, and went to see the ocean. I had never done anything like that before, and I ended up getting fired for it, but that's what made me open my own restaurant. It's one of the best things I've ever done."

At the time, Jake thought the old man's story was merely a means of avoiding his inevitable return to the coffeemaker and the scorn of the other employees. But now,

as he finally pulled into the parking lot, 45 minutes late, he envied him. Jake would have loved to not have entered the office and to have gotten on a train to the coast instead, but he knew Mr. Sanders would fire him and his father would be angry.

"Plus," Jake thought to himself as he stepped into the elevator and the doors slid shut, "I'm not that guy. I could never—"

The elevator stopped four floors below Jake's destination. The doors opened and there stood Mr. Sanders. He saw Jake, scowled, and walked in. The doors shut. The elevator resumed its ascent.

Jake cleared his throat awkwardly.

"Mr. Sanders," he began, "I'm sorry, there was a wreck on—"

"Save it," Mr. Sanders growled. "You're lucky I don't fire you. You're a burden on this company, and if it weren't for your father—"

Suddenly, Jake thought again of the old man. Hadn't his escape to the ocean been bizarre for him, too? Wasn't it in the nature of any escape to be surprising?

The elevator reached the desired floor and the doors opened. Mr. Sanders walked out. Jake remained where he was. His boss, realizing Jake wasn't behind him, turned around just in time to see the doors closing again, but shoved his hand in the way to prevent it.

"Where do you think you're going now?" he demanded.

Jake smiled for the first time that morning.

"The ocean."

The doors slid shut.

Dear Mr. Quinn,

Wow. I feel like I have to write out a flow chart just to figure out your situation. Let's take this one step at a time. . .

First problem—unrequited love. If, in fact, this guy is not a mutant, and you just like to refer to him as one, you should love this girl and just let her be happy. Enough said.

Second problem—the rocky relationship of someone you like. If this guy is now being both a mutant man-child and a blockhead, then you have entered into another situation entirely. It is important for you, as a friend, to be there for her in times of need—your undying love aside. Be careful not to bash him too much. If they end up staying together, chances are you won't be invited to the wedding. So, be objective and guide her to the right conclusions. Say things like: "Gee, your boyfriend is really friendly with strangers," and not: "I definitely saw him making out with a freshman at Brad's."

Third problem—the small hookup you had with the sibling. Yikes. Honestly, this could or could not be a bad thing. You had every right to hook up with her. Maybe it will strike a little jealousy, and this girl will realize how much she cares. Or, she could be really creeped out and never want her tongue anywhere where her sister's has been. But, simply ask the girl if it bothered her. Also, you need to just tell her that you really like her. Harboring strong feelings really hurts. It's better to hear that she never wants to have something romantic with you, then to keep pining away until graduation. Best of luck!



She Said, He Said

Making PC an emotionally stable place,
one letter at a time...

This Week's Edition . . .
BUT YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR SISTER!

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

Long time reader, first time writer. Basically, I have been madly in love with this girl. We have so much in common and always seem to have a good time when we are together. She is PERFECT. The only problem is that she is currently . . . I guess one would say *unattainable*, because she hangs out with a mutant man-child which holds the title of "boyfriend."

Recently, however, she has been talking about how her boyfriend is sort of a blockhead and that she was possibly thinking about leaving him. AWESOME RIGHT? Wrong. This past weekend her younger sister came up to visit, whom, by the way, looks quite a bit like her older sibling. As lonely nights at PC go, after a few drinks things happened between the little sister and me. I am not saying that I didn't enjoy the time spent with her sister, but my true feelings lay with the original party. I am afraid that I may have blown my chances with the one true love of my life, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

—Tom Quinn

*Yeah, I am not even going to try to hide my real name,
because she knows the story and reads The Cowl.*

Write to Tiffany & Earl!

Send your e-mails to:

AskTiffanyEarl@yahoo.com

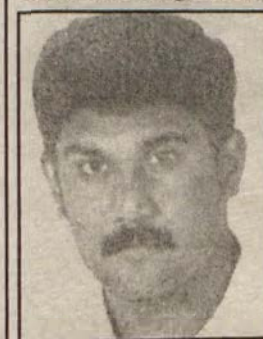
You don't even need to ask for advice. Just send an e-mail telling us you love us—so we know the address is working.

Dear Tom,

WOW! I've been doing this job for a while and I have never come across a problem like yours. Sorry, did I say problem? I'm so used to saying 'problem.' What I really meant to say was *opportunity*. I know many who would be envious to be in your shabby New Balances. I mean who can complain about being the object of affection of two females? Not only that, but they are also sisters. Dude, can you say JACKPOT?

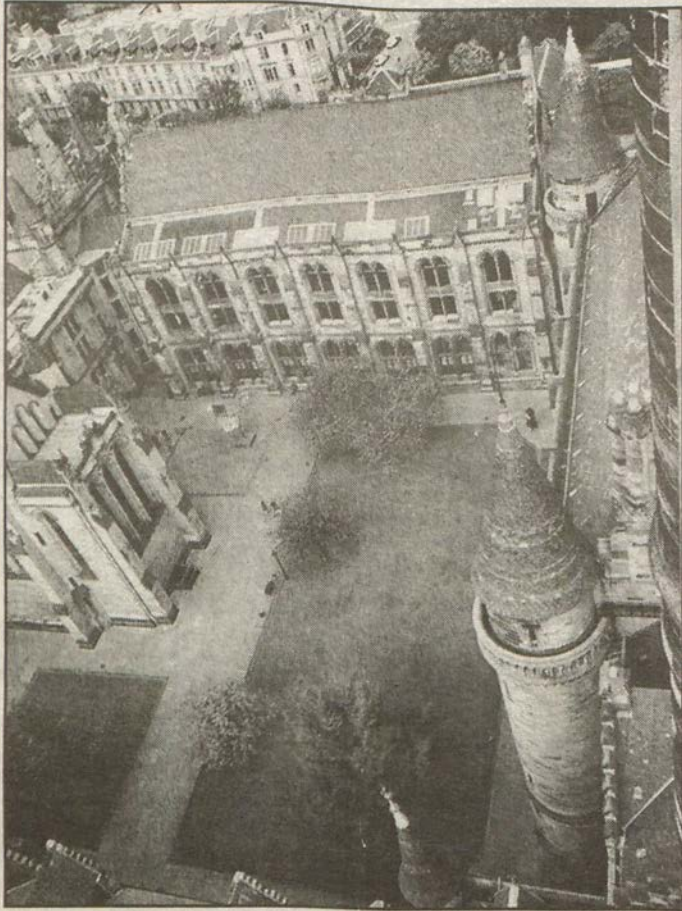
As of now you know that you can already hook-up with one sister. Now it's just a matter of the older one finally caving. As far as I can tell this situation isn't a burden, but a blessing. It puts pressure on the older sister by saying: "Hey, you wait any longer to dump that boyfriend and I may be gone, cause you ain't the only fish in the pond—your sister is here too." As of now I can guarantee that she is seriously considering this situation. If you guys are as close as you say you are, then jealousy will do her job and assure that big sis won't lose you to a younger lady—sister or no sister.

My advice? Continue acting recklessly and with wanton disregard for the future. It seems to be working for you. However, if I were you I would not walk alone, literally—especially home from the bars. This "mutant man-child" will surely be on the look-out for you. I'm not saying that you aren't a tough kid Tom, but I have had some classes with you, and I can assume that you might fair better in a large crowd. I will see you out tomorrow and good luck with - - - - -.



Poetry Corner

"Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood." —T. S. Eliot



TIM PISACICH '07/The Cowl

Cicles

BY ASHLEY LAFERRIERE '06
PORTFOLIO STAFF

I watched the ice crystalize
Over the windshield.

Lies:

It took two years to solidify—
Each drop living in a slow growth.

Against waves of heat,
This particular formation

Requires constant objections.
Vigilance.

The windshield serves its purpose,
Keeping a distance.

The truth:

It is never winter.
In the mind's hibernation.

We are all hoping to make it
To the center

Of the Venn diagram.
To live in the overlap.

To remember something,
A single open word.

Airplane

BY DAN MEEHAN '07
PORTFOLIO STAFF

I knew a guy who liked to fly.
I knew a guy who liked to read.
I never knew a guy who liked
me as a friend.

Crashing and burning I reveled
and let my emotions get
the best of me.

I guess I exploded.
I always liked to read,
I never liked to fly.

I had friend who went to college
I had a friend who went to jail
My friend I knew who went
to college helped
get my other friend
out on bail.

The first one wrote a book and told
about all the times I'd let
him down.

The second one flew an airplane and
brought a hundred screaming
witnesses with him—
drove it to the ground.

The pilot gave me a watch
and then never saw me again.

The drifter gave me two stamps
and an envelope with a pen for
the letter he'd hoped I'd send.

Well, I was late for my train to the city
and I never quite learned
to read.

The writing on those walls
wasn't pretty and my timing
was off indeed.

So I have two funerals to attend
one at the beginning and
one at the end.

Never have I been so sure
that the suitors I neglected
won't ever come again.

Chicken Soup for the Conclusionless Soul

*It is indeed ironic that we spend our
school days yearning to graduate
and our remaining days waxing
nostalgic about our school days.*

—Isabel Waxman

BY KATIE HUGHES '06
PORTFOLIO STAFF

The conclusion does not exist. Trying to find a satisfactory end to a four-year stint at college is like trying to find noun-verb agreement in our president's speech. It is the beginning of the last semester of my college career, and I am at a loss for words. Friends and family are aghast at this last sentence. Still, I will attempt to share with my fellow classmates, under-class persons, faculty, staff and the greater Providence area how it feels to anticipate the end. The gut reaction is as follows: it royally and unequivocally sucks (colloquialism: refers to an unlikable or negative circumstance that diminishes excitement or motivation). There are moments when I want to fast forward to May and get on with my life, while other parts of me are wishing I could hide under my comforter and hit the "snooze" button of life. Lately, it has been more of the latter.

I am a mess. The list of things to do is increasing by the minute. In addition to a regular course-load of work and extra-curriculars, newer activities like job hunting, school hunting and the "highly-coveted-medical-benefits" hunting increase the level of anxiety. Friends who have been down the hall, down the street, or in the next bed over from me, will now be whole cities, states and countries away from me. I have taken many things for granted, like having thousands of people my own age living and working within a mile radius. The idea of having to start over is literally nauseating. The current status of knotting in my stomach would be a challenge for any Boy Scout. It would be so easy to crawl into a hole (preferably the ones surrounding the trees in the Smith Center parking lot) and hibernate for the rest of my life, dreaming of the fond memories of college. I seriously need to get out of this funk, before I become one of those delusional post-grads who come back to PC every weekend to relive their "glory days."

Suddenly the Doris Day from within my gut begins to belt, "Lo que será, será," and I start to think that maybe things will figure themselves out. Perhaps I should not contemplate my post-college experiences as potential disasters, but rather as adventures of epic proportions (a bit of the "Go Big or Go Home" mentality). An adventure is much more exciting than a burdensome life experience. Why didn't I think of this sooner? It's all about perspective, Hughes, unadulterated perspective!

Okay, I need a compass, a map, and some freeze-dried-NASA-engineered rations. I will make like MacGyver and turn any situation into a positive one—using a Swiss army knife, an alarm clock, and one of those bouncy balls you get from the quarter machines outside of the grocery store, preferably green.

With my heart as my compass, my brain as my map, and Mom's recipe for chicken soup, I step out into the scary new world without a specific conclusion in mind . . . and that's ok.



www.bluntseafood.com

Unstressed familiarities hidden in dictionaries

BY CRAIG MALESRA '08
PORTFOLIO STAFF

Mark sat on the hard stone bench, facing his grandmother across the table. The day was beautiful, sunny and mild, and birds were chirping away when she achieved checkmate. Mark's eyes looked sullen as they drifted across the checked lanes peppered with the ivory figures—the Knight, the Rook and the hapless King.

"Fine. You win, Gramma." He forced a quick smile her way. Even at 14, he knew when to pick his fights. This was not one of those times.

Her wrinkled face contracted as her lips stretched into a labored smile.

"You played a good game, Mark. Don't feel bad." The table was no more than three feet across, but her words barely reached him at all. He remained looking down.

"Want to go again?"

The boy looked up with a devout eagerness, brushed a piece of lint off of his pastel-blue shirt, smiled and nodded. The pieces reassembled, Mark plucked a pawn from his front line and moved it two spaces forward. His brown eyes scanned the board feverishly. She moved a knight out into the third row. Only forty minutes earlier, she had taught her grandson how a knight traveled—two one way, then one the other. She had traced the "L" movement without haste, so that he could memorize it. He noticed that this time, she hadn't bothered.

He had his thumb and forefinger on the top of his own knight when Laura Silling changed his life.

"Markie? Did your mom ever tell you how she met Robert?"

Mark looked up at the sound of his father's, Laura's son's, name.

"Um. No, actually." His finger and thumb still clutched the knight. He was lying. Her mother had told him, some time ago, something of the event. She was tucking him in to bed one night, when he asked her how she met daddy. She looked away for a split second, smiled sympa-

thetically. Mark felt her pity wash over him. He felt he had mentioned a taboo topic, obviously striking a nerve. For the first time, there was an uncomfortable awkwardness between mother and child. She rounded her slim eyebrows, and her grey eyes softened. Now they looked directly into his.

"I worked for your father, before we had you and Roger." She forwent her usual kiss on the forehead, cursorily said, "night, hun," and flipped off his light. Laying in his bed, his eyes open in the dark, he felt the same as he did now, sitting among the bright sunlight and the squawking caterwaul of the birds.

"Oh, never mind. You going to move that knight, sweetie?" Mark despised her tone, even though to the others in the park, she must have sounded entirely genuine. He moved his piece, biting down on his tongue.

And so the game went, Laura winning again, Mark's face burning now. It burned worse as they walked in the shade of the trees, back toward Laura's old car.

"Gramma?"

They ambled slowly, with their heads down. Laura watched about 12 feet in front of her as she stepped. Mark stared at his feet. He held her hand loosely.

"Yes, Mark?"

"Why did you ask me that before?"

A long silence. He felt her nearly release his hand altogether, then grab hold of it again. Her grip felt smothering, not maternal, as he thought it should have.

"She never told you?"

"Told me what?" Now he pulled his hand free, pushing it into his pocket as they kicked the dry leaves with their steps.

Tiny bits of sunlight filtered in through the crown canopy. They looked at each other for the first time in a while, and he could see a fire in her expression.

"Your mother was a prostitute. I thought she would have told you and Roger by now."

It was that simple for her. She strode forward, and they reached the car within a couple of minutes. Mark had no idea



ALEX JOHNSON '07/The Cowl

what to think. Prostitute? The word was one of those he had heard used now and again, but in his young age, he hadn't entirely embodied the meaning of the word yet. He only knew it carried ominous undertones.

Pulling the rickety door shut, he clasped his seat belt in place. He felt strange sitting next to her in the car, and as she navigated the back roads of his home town, he thought he might grind his teeth to nubs. He hoped she could hear them rub against each other. Maybe then she would feel some remorse.

They stopped at the bank, the supermarket, the corner store (she had forgotten cigarettes), and when they pulled into the driveway, he hopped out of the car without saying goodbye.

She sat for a moment, the antiquated Cadillac rumbling obediently on the slight incline of the asphalt. He knew she was waiting for him to turn and wave. He did.

Inside, his mother was making din-

ner. The smell of Fettuccini Alfredo—his father's favorite—permeated the air of the foyer. Mark walked into his parents' bedroom and pulled a dictionary from the bookshelf. He thumbed through the Ps until he found his word.

Until he found his mother.

He stood on his toes, slipped the book back into its place, and walked softly into the kitchen. She looked so innocent there by the stove. In her white apron, her sandy blonde hair was pulled back into a messy bun, and her brow knitted as she mixed something by the sink. He walked over to her.

"Hi, Mom." He looked up at her with a smile.

"Hey, babe. Ready for dinner?"

"Yeah." He remained there, and she put the bowl down and placed her hands on her hips akimbo. "That smells great, Mom."

She smiled. And at that moment, that was all that really mattered.

Please, don't touch the door handle on your way out

BY MEGAN BISHOP '07
PORTFOLIO EDITOR

I'm a self proclaimed germ-o-phobe. I guess all germ-o-phobes are, in their own terms, self proclaimed because I'm not sure what would be more counterproductive than some sort of

ESSAY

test that measures how paranoid you are about getting sick. I have no doubt I'd score somewhere in the upper half of most 19-year-old college students. My roommate, however, would score in the lower half. She cleans things without soap, eats things off the floor, and doesn't just abide by the "five-second rule"—you know the "if it doesn't touch the ground for more than five seconds, it isn't actually dirty rule," she follows what is more realistically called the "10 minute rule." And, frankly, I'm not totally convinced that germs really do wait the designated five seconds after food or other objects fall to the ground, paralyzed behind some sort of imaginary starting line, counting down the seconds until it's ok to attack. For me, if any edible substance falls anywhere past my belly button it gets ushered to the floor—where it remains.

Life for the germ-o-phobe is rough. Try getting through the day without touching common surfaces, avoiding the friendly handshake of the guy with the sniffles, and inspecting every utensil before placing it into your food. This is feasible, of course, but I suppose the trick is inspecting forks for residue in the middle of the cafeteria without getting strange looks from your fellow students.

The worst place for a germ-o-phobe isn't where you'd think. And, frankly I'd do almost anything to avoid going there.

No, it's not that gas station where the walls are just a little too shiny or the kindergarten classroom that's just run out of Kleenex—it's the doctor's office. I'm not sure who thought up the concept of waiting rooms, but I blame them for getting sick people even sicker. Let's put 20 exhausted, restless people who are either coughing up a lung or heaving into a bucket together in a poorly ventilated room. And, here's an even better concept—let's add magazines, so that everyone will read their horoscopes, touch the same surface, and pass germs with friendly smiles.

“

At this point, I was sitting half on the left side of my chair, half hanging off, doing anything I could to breathe into my sweatshirt and not pass out from lack of oxygen.

”

And of course, this is where I found myself last Friday morning. My scheduled appointment was for 10:00 a.m. Now, I know the student health center at Providence College. I know they overbook the doctors, though I'm not sure why. And I also know that when you go in there, you shouldn't expect to be seen for at least a half hour. So I accepted it. I brought my own book to read, settled in a chair far from sick kids, and prepared for my wait. It's important to mention that I didn't have a cold or the flu or anything contagious, so these kids weren't catching anything from me, or from the kid with the cast on in the cor-

ner. We were safe, and we brought with us an aura of health. Hey, look at me, I wanted to shout, I can still breathe through my nose.

When my book became boring, and *Regis and Kelly* had ended, it was 11:00 a.m. and I was still there. The worst part? Half the people who were sitting when I strolled in were still there too, looking a little more anxious than me. I knew I still had to wait for each of them before I would even be called. The absolute worst part? The girl next to me—the one who didn't know what a tissue was, and forgot that when one coughs, it should be done into one's hands or arm. At this point, I was sitting half on the left side of my chair, half hanging off, doing anything I could to breathe into my sweatshirt and not pass out from lack of oxygen. When Martha Stewart and her awkward accent came on television, I knew I was done for. I began to calculate just how advantageous this little doctor's appointment would be. I had been sitting there for one hour and 30 minutes when Martha began to iron a dress shirt—and I no longer could sit still.

And then, as if an angel was speaking from the opened plexiglas door, I heard my name. I'm not sure if I have moved more quickly towards a nurse in my life. The rest of the appointment wasn't much of an

improvement. I waited in the examination room for another 15 minutes, then was told by the doctor that he didn't know what was wrong with me, and that I should come back for a second opinion. Awesome. Not only was something mysteriously wrong with me with no solution, but I was infected with the germs of all the sick kids in Providence. Needless to say, I have yet to go back for that second opinion. And rest assured, I did everything I could not to touch the door handle on the way out.



<http://dailygreencine.com/archives/srs-graph.jpg>

Even germ-o-phobes like a good make out.

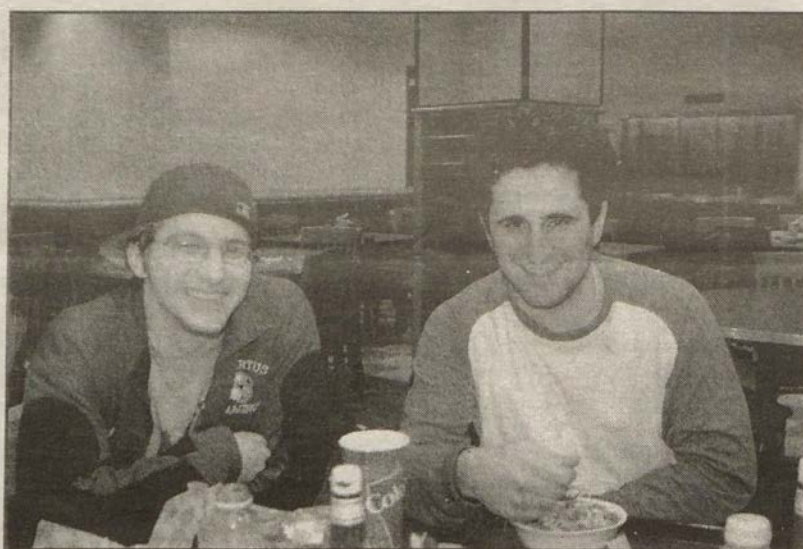
If you could name the Suites, what would you call them?



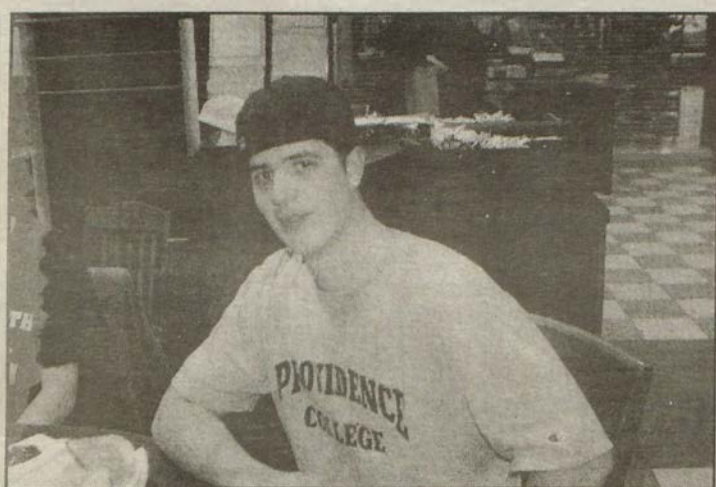
"Providence Peaks."
Chris Berard '07



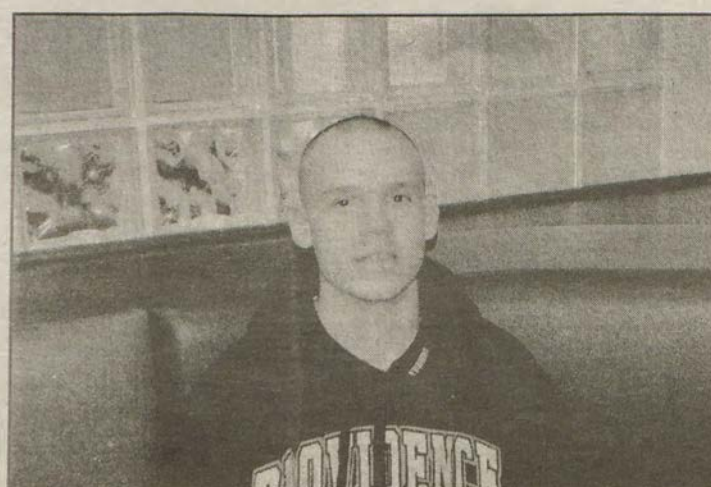
"Don't Eat Suites!"
Jeffrey Dujardin '07



"The Palace of Love."
Jamie Marik '08 and Ramyar Torabi '08



"Ryter Hall."
Matt Ryter '07



"The Fun House."
Mike Gracia '08



Brangelina

"The (Mr. and Mrs.) Smith Center."

“Oops, there goes
this week’s *Cowl*...”



good thing we
have a web site
www.thecowl.com

Friars Scoreboard

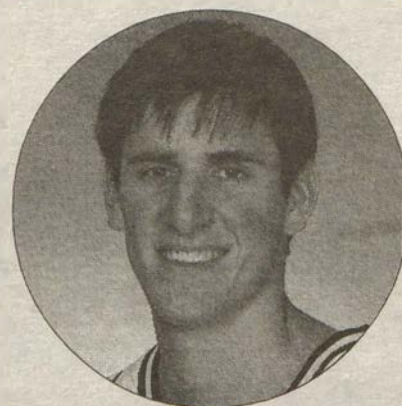
Scores --- Standings --- Statistics --- Schedules --- Standouts

Standouts



Gayle Nwafili

Women's Basketball
Senior—Maplewood, N.J.
Nwafili posted her sixth double-double of the season against USF on Jan. 21, finishing with 15 points and a career-high 17 rebounds. On the season, Nwafili is averaging 13.1 points, 9.4 rebounds, and 1.2 blocks per game.



Randall Hanke

Men's Basketball
Sophomore—New York, N.Y.
Hanke's 19 points on Saturday helped lead the Friars to their first Big East win of the campaign, a 76-75 victory over DePaul. Hanke leads the team in scoring at 15.1 points per game, and also leads the Big East in field goal percentage at 69.8%.

Scores

<i>Wednesday 1/18</i>					
Women's Basketball vs. Seton Hall					L, 69-59
<i>Friday 1/20</i>					
Men's Indoor Track at URI Quad Meet					5th of 11
Women's Indoor Track at URI Quad Meet					4th of 11
Men's Hockey at Maine					W, 4-0
<i>Saturday 1/21</i>					
Women's Swimming & Diving vs. Sacred Heart					W, 64-38
Women's Swimming & Diving vs. UM-Dartmouth					W, 73-29
Men's Swimming & Diving vs. UM-Dartmouth					W, 151-110
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Northeastern					W, 5-4 (OT)
Women's Basketball at South Florida					L, 53-47
Men's Basketball vs. DePaul					W, 76-75
Men's Hockey at Maine					L, 5-2
<i>Sunday 1/22</i>					
Women's Hockey at Maine					T, 2-2
<i>Wednesday 1/25</i>					
Women's Basketball vs. St. John's					L, 72-50
Men's Basketball at Rutgers					W, 79-69

Schedules

<i>Friday 1/27</i>		
Men's Hockey vs. New Hampshire		7:00 p.m.
<i>Saturday 1/28</i>		
Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Vermont		11:00 a.m.
Men's Swimming and Diving vs. New Hampshire		11:00 a.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Connecticut		2:00 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. Syracuse		2:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Memphis		7:30 p.m.
Men's Indoor Track at Terrier Classic		
(at Boston University)		TBA
Women's Indoor Track at Terrier Classic		
(at Boston University)		TBA
<i>Sunday 1/29</i>		
Women's Hockey at New Hampshire		2:00 p.m.
Men's Indoor Track at Terrier Classic		
(at Boston University)		TBA
Women's Indoor Track at Terrier Classic		
(at Boston University)		TBA
<i>Tuesday 1/31</i>		
Women's Basketball at Marquette		8:00 p.m.
<i>Wednesday 2/1</i>		
Men's Basketball vs. Seton Hall		7:30 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. New Hampshire		7:30 p.m.

Standings

Women's Hockey East Conference Standings 1/26/06

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Boston College	12	2	1	25	45	28
New Hampshire	9	1	1	19	47	16
Providence	7	2	2	16	41	22
Connecticut	6	6	0	12	20	20
Boston University	5	8	2	12	29	40
Maine	3	5	4	10	29	35
Northeastern	3	11	1	7	30	51
Vermont	1	11	1	3	10	39

Men's Hockey East Conference Standings 1/26/06

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Boston College	14	2	1	29	53	24
Providence	10	5	1	21	50	34
New Hampshire	9	4	3	21	48	36
Boston University	10	6	1	21	54	44
Vermont	7	6	2	16	37	28
Maine	8	7	0	16	50	34
UMass Lowell	6	9	1	13	40	57
Massachusetts	6	9	0	12	32	54
Northeastern	1	11	5	7	32	55
Merrimack	1	13	2	4	20	58

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Road to NCAAs begins

BY ERIN REDIHAN '08
SPORTS STAFF

Last weekend the Men's and Women's Indoor Track teams traveled to Kingston, R.I. to compete in the University of Rhode Island Quad Meet. Both

INDOOR TRACK

squads started out 2006 with very strong performances and turned in a number of first place finishes in what was described as more of a practice meet by Senior Martin Fagan.

"We were missing people who hadn't come back from the winter break yet," said Fagan. "Not everyone was here. Our legs will improve with practice as the season moves on."

Though the entire team did not participate, those who ran made their presence felt. Senior Mary Cullen paced the Friars by running the fastest 3000 meters by a college runner so far this year. The only time faster than hers in recent years by a college athlete was by former Friar standout Kim Smith.

"Cullen was fantastic," said Coach Ray Treacy. "She ran 17 seconds faster than her best time. She was on another level completely."

Cullen's time of 9:02.13 was more than a minute better than that of the second place finisher, PC sophomore Michelle Childs. A fellow Friar, junior Ashley Jensen, came in fourth.

The Friars also dominated in the mile where, once again, three of the top four finishers were Friars. Aine Hoban won the race in 4:56.92, while teammate Katie DiCamillo was right behind her with a time of 5:01.35. Nelle Trefz came in fourth place.

Junior Meghan Owen took another event for the Friars, winning the 1000 meter.

"Meghan Owen is looking to qualify for the mile at the Big East Championships," said Treacy. "Her run was very encouraging."

The day was just as exciting on the men's side. Senior Martin Fagan and sophomore Max Smith paced the team as they both turned in first place individual performances and also contributed to the winning 4 x 800 relay team.

Fagan beat the second-place finisher in the mile by nearly five seconds.

"This wasn't a very hard race," said Fagan about his victory. "This wasn't a very big meet but I'm still very happy with it."

"He ran his normal distance very easily," said Treacy of Fagan. "He took first easily in the first meet of the year after the Christmas break. He was very good in the relay as well. It was a very solid day."

Meanwhile, Smith's victory came in the 1000 meters, where he led the pack with a time of 2:25.23. Seniors Richard Jones and Joe Dionne also added to the Friars' success in Kingston, with Jones placing third in the 800 meter run and Dionne coming in second in the 3000 meters.

"Jones's race was decent," stated Coach Treacy. "He finished behind the top two in the conference in that race. They are the same two he'll have to beat later. Today's meet was a taste of the Big East Championships."

"Joe ran pretty fast," Fagan said. "He usually runs the 5000 so this wasn't his usual event, but he ran well for this event."

According to Treacy, the meet at URI was a warm-up for this weekend's Terrier Classic, which will take place Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 28-29 at Boston University. The Classic is a big meet for the Friars, as it is a qualifier for the Big East Championships, which will be held in Akron, Ohio on Feb. 18-19.

"URI was a good meet. We got everyone out there and the full team had good performances. We're looking for a few more qualifiers [for the Big East and NCAA Championships]. This was a tune up for the big meet this weekend. I am quite happy with the results," Treacy said.

This weekend, Hoban will be running the 5000 meters while both Cullen and Owen will attempt to qualify for the NCAA Championships in May in their respective events.

The Quad Meet at URI was the first for the team in more than a month because of winter break. Overall, Coach Treacy left Kingston feeling "very encouraged."

The Friars will look to build upon their success in meets such as the Terrier Classic that lead up to the Big East and NCAA meets this spring.

Friars remain afloat

BY RYAN HOLT '09
SPORTS STAFF

The Providence College Men's Swimming and Diving teams started the new year off right after finishing fifth in the Florida Gulf Coast Winter Relay Invite, and winning its next two meets.

The Friars defeated Maine on Jan. 15, 141-139. PC has now won seven events.

Senior Seth Brockman took first in the 50-meter freestyle, less than one-tenth of a second ahead of junior Tom McLoughlin. Senior Frank LaMonaca captured the 100 and 200-meter freestyle, as freshman Nick Trilla won the 800-meter freestyle, and 200-meter butterfly. Freshman Ryan Clark took the 200-meter backstroke and senior Mike Vezzoli won the 100-meter backstroke.

PC had a repeat victory over Massachusetts this past weekend, 151-110.

In the 50-meter freestyle, McLoughlin and Freshman Justin Rich finished first and second, respectively. The Friars swept the 100-meter freestyle, with junior Brian Confrey, sophomore David Kerley and senior Nick Taylor taking the top three spots. Trilla, Confrey, and Taylor also took the top three spots for PC in the 200-meter freestyle.

The Friars tallied first and second place in the 800-meter freestyle, 50-meter breaststroke, 200-meter freestyle relay, and 200-meter medley relay. In addition, Providence took the top three spots in the 100-meter backstroke.

The women's side lost to Maine 173-127, despite winning six events.

Freshman Blair Flynn edged out the competition in the 50-meter freestyle, winning by 0.04 seconds. In addition, Flynn took second place in the 100-meter backstroke.

Junior Annie Nemeth claimed the 100-meter and 200-meter breaststroke events, while classmate Katelyn Flynn won the 100-meter and 200-meter butterfly events.

The 200-meter butterfly relay team, composed of freshman Meghan Glynn, senior Lori Brezinsky, junior Emily Corcoran, and freshman Lauren Sepe, won its race as well.

PC bounced back from its loss to post victories over Sacred Heart, 64-38 and UMass-Dartmouth, 73-29 this past weekend.

Nemeth won the 50-meter freestyle and the 100-meter breaststroke, as teammate freshman Christine Bonagura was victorious in the 200-meter freestyle. The 200-meter freestyle and medley relay teams also claimed their events.

Glynn and sophomore Danielle Matook took the top two spots in the 50-meter backstroke, while Sepe and sophomore Jessica McCarthy finished first and second respectively in the 100-meter backstroke.

Katelyn Flynn claimed the 800-meter freestyle, while Corcoran followed closely behind taking second place. PC also took first and second in the 50-meter breaststroke.

The men will host New Hampshire, while the women take on Vermont at home on Jan. 28 at 11:00 a.m.

Friars: Busy break PC: HE in the balance

continued from back page

tunities and felt like I saw the puck well all-night," he said.

Sophomore defenseman Trevor Ludwig saw his netminder as the main reason for the team's defensive improvement.

"Sims played really well on Friday and he's just having a solid year," he said.

The Friars dominated in all facets of the game. They outshot Maine 27-20 and won 38 face-offs compared to 16 by Maine. The Friars finished 2-6 on the man advantage while holding Maine 0-4. Furthermore, PC shut out Maine at home, a feat that no visiting team had accomplished in 24 games.

With the shutout, Sims tied the PC single-season record with his third shutout of the year. It was also the Friars' 13th win of the season, surpassing their 2004-05 total (12).

Maine is still a good team, though, and thoughts of a PC weekend sweep were quickly extinguished on Saturday night as the Black Bears won 5-2. Penalties on the Friars were the story of the game, as Maine quickly jumped on top with a power-play strike 11:48 into the first period. PC had 12 penalty minutes in the first, and the penalties increased in the second, with both teams being whistled for five each. But it was the Black Bears who made the most of their chances, scoring their second power-play goal 4:07 into the second.

When Maine scored twice to quickly jump up 4-0, Army rolled the dice on the power play by pulling Sims for an extra attacker (giving them a two-man advantage). The gutsy coaching move didn't pay off in the second, but it did in the third, as both sophomore Jon Rheault and Zancanaro scored with the goaltender pulled to make things interesting.

Unfortunately, the Friars couldn't get any closer as Maine added an empty-net goal to win 5-2. Despite this, Army was

happy with his club's performance over the weekend.

"Overall, we did some very good things," he said. "We played well enough to sweep them, the split is a positive. The most important thing is that we get better every game."

Slowly but surely, the Friars are gaining more and more respect around the country. This week Providence rose to No. 11 in the USCHO.com/CSTV poll and No. 12 in the USA Today/US Hockey Magazine poll. They are tied for second in Hockey East with New Hampshire and BU, each having 21 points.

"I'm real happy," Ludwig said. "We're making our school known in Hockey East. We're all excited to come to the rink every day."

This Friday, the Friars take on UNH at Schneider Arena at 7:00 p.m. It's the Friars' first meeting of the season with the No. 10 Wildcats, and Army and his team are geared up for this huge game.

"The only thing in our focus is UNH," he said. "We missed the energy of the students; we feed off that in Schneider. We will not get ahead of ourselves and just focus on our game. We've gotta bring our best game—lots of speed, creativity, shots on net, being the offensive aggressor in the game."

Sims singled out his team's home fans as the main reason they've played so well at home (7-2-1) this season.

"It's dead here when everyone is gone. Friday is blackout night (where all the fans wear black), I think a lot of students will come out for it," he said.

With 11 games left in conference play before the playoffs and seven of those at home, Army and his team knows that they have the enviable position of basically determining their own fate, mostly at Schneider no less.

"Sometimes you've gotta be bold and brash," he asserted. "Respect the opponent but trust that when you bring your game, you're better."

continued from back page

a fourth forward," said Payton, "which is great on a young team. You can give her a pass anywhere and she'll one-time it, and the way she's shooting, it'll probably end up in the net. She's a very tough defenseman, too. I think the toughest in Hockey East."

But despite Gigliotti's efforts, Maine netted the equalizer on the power play to force overtime. Despite outshooting the Black Bears 4-1 in the extra period, Providence was unable to come away with a victory, but still saw positive signs from the 2-2 tie.

"When we were at full strength, we dominated them," said Payton.

The night before, however, Providence had earned two important points in another Hockey East matchup. This one was a home tilt against Northeastern.

"We had problems before the break coming out with a lot of tenacity," added Payton, "So we wanted to do that against Northeastern, and I think we did."

Just 3:49 into the game, freshman Katy Beach found the back of the net. But PC was not content with just the one goal. Payton netted to put the Friars ahead 2-0, and the lead quickly increased to 3-0 when Gigliotti combined with Thatcher and junior Sonny Watrous to capitalize on a 3-on-2 rush. It appeared that PC was on its way to an easy win.

But Northeastern refused to go down without a fight, rallying to within 3-2 with two second period goals, and the early part of the third period was tense as PC clung to its one goal lead.

Then a lucky bounce went the Friars' way. On the power play, Thatcher spotted Watrous planted at the far post, and threw the puck toward her, sensing a possible goal. However, the puck redirected off the stick of one of the Northeastern players into the net. The goal, Thatcher's 15th, made the score 4-2, PC.

But the Friars, just as they would on Sunday, faced similar troubles closing out Saturday's game. Down by two, Northeastern somehow found a way to net twice in the final minute to tie the score at 4-4 and force overtime.

"We just wanted to play a full 60 minutes of hockey and except for that last minute, we did," said Thatcher.

Overtime, thankfully for the Friars, proved a different story. On the opening faceoff, Beach sent the puck forward. Watrous chipped the puck around her defender and raced up-ice. Meanwhile, Thatcher darted up the middle of the rink and kept her stick down, anticipating a pass. As the Northeastern defender came towards Watrous, she slid the puck over to the stick of Thatcher, who coolly redirected the puck into the net to ensure that the Friars collected the two points they felt they deserved. The goal was scored just nine seconds into overtime and gave Providence the 5-4 win.

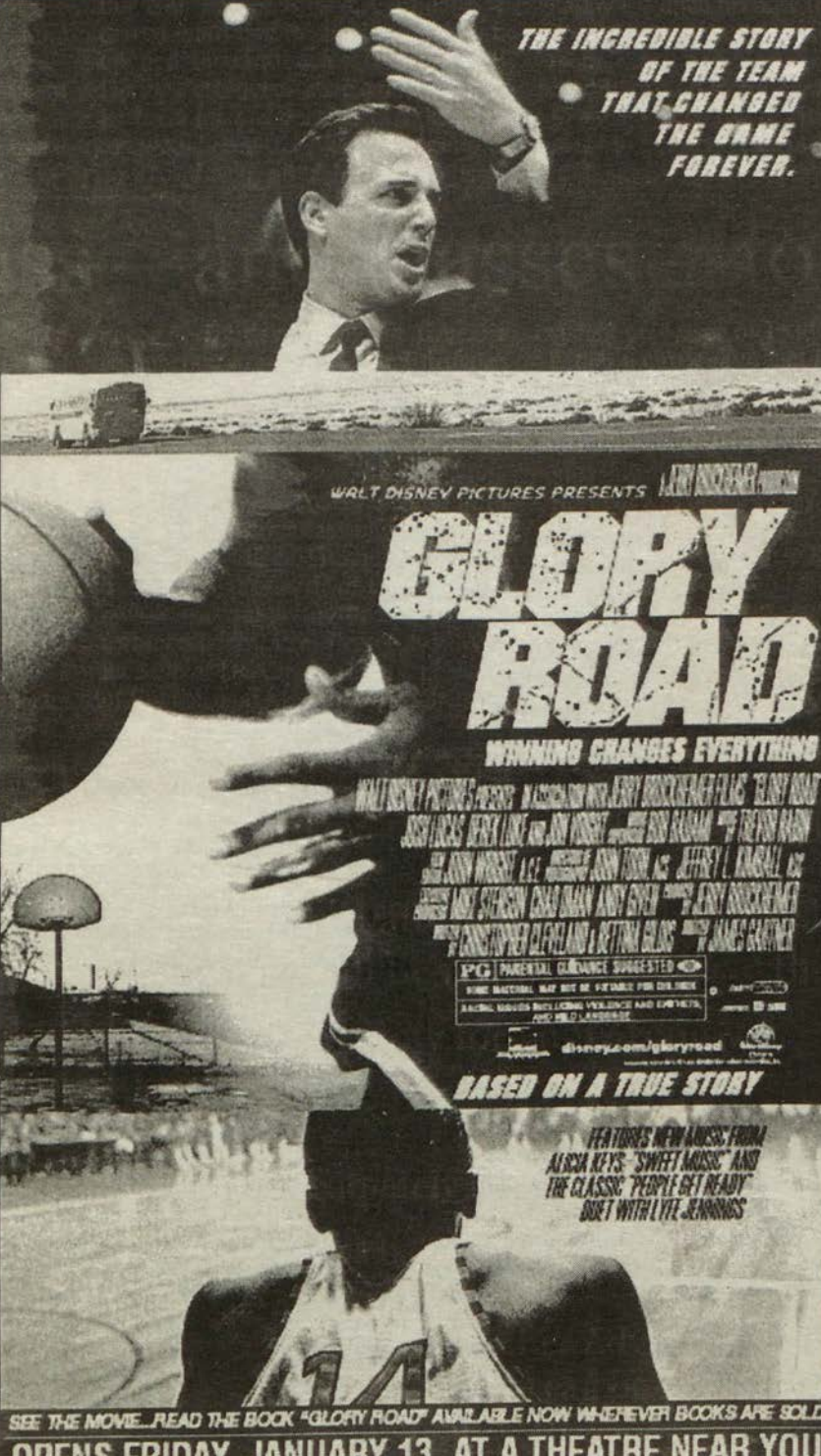
With the three points from the win against Northeastern and the tie against Maine, the Friars (13-7-4, 7-2-2) find themselves in third place in the Hockey East standings, but with a very real chance to overtake both second place UNH and conference leader BC.

"Every game is important for seeding in Hockey East and the NCAA tournament," Thatcher said. "If we win [against UNH], we would be in a much better position for both that tournament and the NCAA's."

"Going to UNH and the Olympic-sized ice sheet up there will show a lot about how we are capable of playing," Payton added. "It's a chance for us to send a message to the rest of the league, and we definitely think we're ready."

The first test against UNH will be on that larger ice surface, this Sunday, Jan. 29. The Friars then return home to face the Wildcats again on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 7:00 p.m., with national prestige—and Hockey East seeding—on the line.

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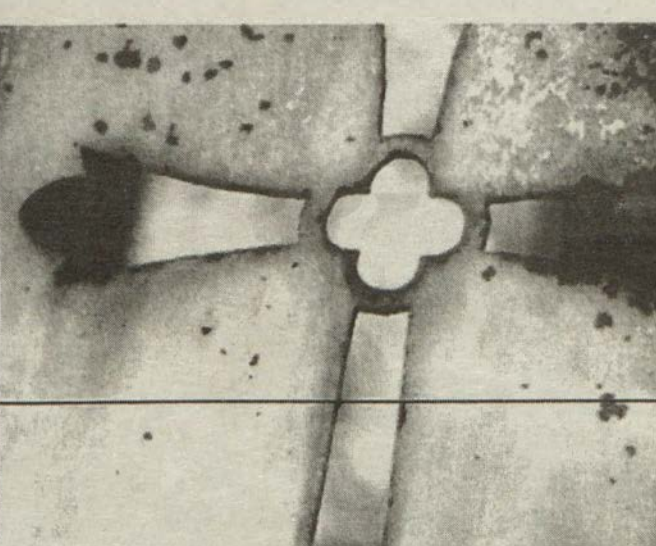
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Big East blues continue for Friars

BY STEPHANIE LACHARITE '06
SPORTS EDITOR

Expecting stiff competition against St. John's University, the third-ranked team in the conference, the Providence College Women's Basketball team faced

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

defeat last night on its home court.

The game ended in a 22 point victory

for the Red Storm and handed Providence its 12th loss this season. By a score of 72-50, St. John's took advantage of the Friars 2-3 zone defense and shot 50 percent from the field.

"They attacked our zone and out-matched us," said head coach Phil Seymore. "We tried to show a better rotation but we just weren't aggressive enough."

The game was off to a slow start, but St. John's began to build on its lead with a 14-4 run and by the end of the first half had captured a 16 point lead over the Friars. With another short 8-2 run to start the second half the Red Storm increased its lead to 23 points.

"We needed to box out and communicate on defense and we lacked that tonight," said freshman Shantee Darrian, who led the team with 11 points and nine rebounds. "We played very aggressive defense against South Florida and if we would have came out the same way we would have done better."



Freshman forward Shantee Darrian led Providence in its effort against St. John's on Jan. 25. The Red Storm defeated the Friars 72-50. Darrian posted 11 points and nine rebounds and also claimed 13 rebounds this past weekend against South Florida.

The Friars suffered another disheartening loss against South Florida on the road this past weekend, 53-47. After a dismal first half, as both teams shot under 25 percent from the field, Providence took the lead with two minutes left and held an 18-16 lead at the halftime break.

Yet South Florida came back from halftime refreshed to reclaim their lead, 28-20, as USF went on a 12-2 scoring run. The battle ensued, as Providence cut the lead down to three, only for USF to build its lead again to seven. The Friars managed to tie the game with less than eight minutes left, before USF fought back.

PC was less than willing to quit, regaining a 41-41 tie with approximately five minutes left, but the Friars were unable to take the advantage before the buzzer. South Florida prevailed as they edged out PC with a 12-6 run to add the victory to their record.

"We need to score more points and be more competitive," said Seymore.

"We could have won the USF game."

Despite the Friars' five game losing streak, this season's team has won more games than the past two seasons combined.

Providence went on a five game winning streak just prior to winter break, as they defeated in-state rival Rhode Island on Dec. 10, 69-66. The team then went on to beat Harvard, Wagner, St. Francis N.Y., and newly added conference foe Cincinnati. Before PC's victory over Cincinnati, the Friars had not won a regular season Big East Conference game for 39 consecutive games.

"Our goal is just to get the next win. Our goal was to get one conference win and now we're searching for that next win," said Seymore. "We need to be eager and get better every day."

Providence's winning streak was snapped on the road against Georgetown on Jan. 11, 79-67, and the team is continuing to fight a downhill slide. The Friars have lost three of the past four contests by less than 10 points. In addition to Providence's losses to USF and St. John's this past week, they also were defeated by Pittsburgh, 75-65, and Seton Hall, 69-59.

"We're looking for our next win and we'll build upon that," said Darrian. "We'll just keep working hard and we don't take any team we play for granted."

Despite PC's recent losses, it seems as though Providence is beginning to hold its own again. Ending streaks and building upon its strengths, the Friars' win over Cincinnati is indicative of the potential this young team has. From new leadership at the helm to a solid freshman class, PC women's basketball could become an underdog favorite in the Big East by the end of the season.

"We can't ever give up. We need to set our own reputation," said Darrian. "We're here to play our own game."

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SPORTS

JANUARY 26, 2006

Last-minute jitters for Friars

BY DREW GOUCHER '08
SPORTS STAFF

In 1999, baseball pitcher Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez fielded a ground ball back up the middle cleanly in his glove. But the ball lodged in the webbing of his glove, and would not come out. Undeterred, "El Duque" threw the whole thing—ball and glove—to first base to record the 1-3 putout.

Senior Ashley Payton of the Providence College Women's Hockey team knows what it must have been like for El Duque. She performed a similarly innovative play on Sunday at Maine.

With the No. 9 Friars trailing 1-0 early in the third period, Payton raced down the ice two-on-two with junior defenseman Kristin Gigliotti. Payton skated wide and threw a pass across the ice to Gigliotti, whose initial shot was blocked by Maine netminder Genevieve Turgeon and lodged underneath the body of a sliding Maine defender. Determined to fire the rebound home, Payton sent the puck—and the Maine player—into the twine to tie the score at one.

"I'd like to thank Coach Kenny White for that goal," Payton joked, referring to the team's Strength and Conditioning Coach.

The goal, Payton's 11th of the season, provided some comic relief for the Friars, but more importantly it got them on the board in a game where they struggled early and often with penalties. With PC constantly shorthanded, senior goaltender Jana Bugden had to be at her best to give the Friars a chance to win the game. And she was, responding to the challenge with a game high 31 saves.

"We had stretches where we just couldn't get out of the [penalty] box," said senior captain Karen Thatcher. "We spent most of the second period shorthanded, and on the penalty kill, your goalie is always your most important player. Bugden literally stood on her head to keep us in the game."

Nine minutes after Payton's goal, Providence took advantage of a power play, as Gigliotti wired a low slap shot from the left point past Turgeon and inside the far post. The goal, Gigliotti's 14th of the year, was assisted by sophomores Rachel Crissy and Kathleen Smith, and it gave PC a 2-1 lead. Gigliotti leads all Hockey East defensemen in scoring, with 30 points.

"Gigliotti's really like having

Skating with the stars, PC style

BY RICH SLATE '06
SPORTS STAFF

While you were being lazy over break, watching those same episodes of *Laguna Beach* (for the fifth time), Head Coach Tim Army and the Providence College Men's Hockey team were grinding away, posting a 3-2-0 record over winter break.

The highlights for the Friars included capturing the PC Holiday Classic Tournament—thanks to a 7-1 thrashing of then No. 11 Colgate followed by a 5-2 win over Sacred Heart in the championship. After that game, the team had its own mini-vacation for the holidays and came back fresh, dominating Boston University 5-1 in Boston on Jan. 6.

This set up a huge game the next night at home versus Boston College (who was No. 5 at the time, but is now No. 1). Unfortunately, the Friars fell to BC for the second time this season, the 4-1 loss ending their six-game win streak.

The last game during break was at Schneider against UMass-Lowell. The Friars held a 3-1 lead with five minutes left in the third when the River Hawks exploded for two goals in the last five minutes, setting

the stage for their overtime winner with 13 seconds left.

There was no carryover effect from these difficult losses, as Providence bounced back in a big way with an impressive 4-0 win at Maine on Jan. 20. Luckily for Friars fans, the game was broadcast on NESN. The game served as a wake-up call to Hockey East and a regional audience: the Friars showed that they are no fluke this season.

Both teams came out battling hard. Sophomore goalie Tyler Sims made his presence felt immediately with 10 saves in the first. Senior defenseman James Pemberton made a great diving poke-check on an odd-man rush in the Friars defensive zone, thwarting the Black Bears scoring chance on the power play.

PC opened the scoring with less than a minute left in the first when freshman defenseman Cody Wild scored off a rebound from an initial shot by senior forward Torry Gadja. The goal was Wild's fifth of the year. PC ended the period with eight shots and a 1-0 lead.

The Friars' momentum carried over to the second period. PC doubled their lead at 6:46 on the power play when junior right wing Colin McDonald relayed a perfect pass to junior left wing Jamie Carroll, who fired



KEVIN TASSINI '06/The Cowl

Sophomore Jon Rheault is second on the Friars with nine goals. He scored in PC's 4-0 win at Maine on Friday.

his wrist shot high to make it 2-0. Sims didn't have to face as many shots in the second—only two—but one of the saves was a beautiful right leg save on a two-on-one Maine rush. PC killed off a flurry of penalties in the latter half of the second, to go into the intermission up 2-0.

This night belonged to the Friars from start to finish, as PC clinched the game with two third-period goals. PC scored another goal on the vaunted Maine penalty-kill when junior center Tony Zancanaro scored 5:50 into the third. Once again, Gadja started the play by driv-

ing to the net, causing a loose puck in front of the Maine net which Zancanaro swooped in and fired top-shelf. The scoring for the game was closed out by Watson off a great feed from Carroll at 14:54. PC sent the great fans of Maine home early, as they took the life out of Alford Arena.

Sims shared the credit for his performance with his teammates.

"It was a combination of things: they helped me allow no second chance rebound opportunities and felt like I saw the

FRIARS/Page 26

Big East wins spark Friars turnaround

BY KEVIN O'BRIEN '07
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Christmas came a little late this year in Friartown.

Thankfully for PC fans, it did come.

After a turbulent holiday season, the

Providence College Men's Basketball team finally found a belated dose of holiday cheer this past week, registering their first Big East wins of the campaign in succession. A 76-75 home victory over DePaul and a 79-69 win at Rutgers upped the Friars' record to 2-4 in the conference and 9-8 overall.

"You grow up quickly in these type games because this is what conference is all about," Head Coach Tim Welsh offered. "There's absolutely no frustration at all with this team or the coaches because we're very determined to keep getting better."

It's been a welcome upturn in fortunes for a team that endured a chaotic winter "break."

For starters, sophomore forward DeSean White—a big-time recruit when he signed with the Friars before last season—failed to return after Christmas, instead opting to transfer to a school closer to home.

The defection left the Friars with just eight scholarship players, and the lack of depth was evident in the Friars' early Big East struggles. Losses to Georgetown, Louisville, Notre Dame and West Virginia left the



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Senior Donnie McGrath had the hot hand this week, averaging 19.5 points in wins over DePaul and Rutgers.

Friars 0-4 in the conference.

But the DePaul game may have been exactly what the doctor ordered for an ailing, but still young and vibrant, PC team.

"It's definitely a confidence builder," senior Donnie McGrath said. "The young guys taste victory, and they're all excited now."

Those young guys are certainly a big reason for this team's recent success, but it has been the veterans—namely McGrath and junior forward Herbert Hill—who have really stepped up in the two wins.

Hill showed himself to be an effective offensive option, scoring 12 against DePaul and exploding for 19 and 10 rebounds against Rutgers.

"He's a steady player," Welsh said. "Herb can score. Give our guys credit, they looked for him."

McGrath helped shoulder the offensive load in both games as well, netting 16 against DePaul and 23 at Rutgers. Against the Blue Demons, it was McGrath's fallaway jumper with 40 seconds left that gave the Friars the lead for good.

"I was proud of the way they just hung in there through that period of time because they could have folded easily," Welsh said. "But our D clamped down at the end and made some great plays."

It was a game the Friars might very well have lost last year, but this time the bounces

went PC's way. The freshmen tandem of Geoff McDermott and Weyinmi Efejuku sealed the game for the Friars, with McDermott drawing a charge and Efejuku nailing the free throws to put the game away.

"I saw he faked the pass, and I was like, 'I got him,'" McDermott said of his defensive play. "It feels good (to win)—we want to try to get on a roll."

That momentum certainly carried over. The Friars used a 16-1 first half spurt to run out to a 44-26 halftime lead at Rutgers, and the Scarlet Knights would get no closer than seven.

With things looking up in the present, the Friars also got a bit of good news about their future this week. Ray Hall, a 6-11, 265 lb. center from Denver, Col. verbally committed to the Friars on Monday. He joins three other recruits—Jamal Barney, Corey Lowe, and Brian McKenzie—who have committed to the Friars for next year.

The current Friars, however, remain focused on the task at hand—and that continues with a visit from No. 1 Connecticut at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

They may be overmatched, but don't expect these Friars to just roll over for the Huskies. Their youthful exuberance may just work to their advantage this weekend, and with things finally starting to look up for the program, confidence is swelling.

"We're not in bad shape," McGrath said. "I think there's a lot of games coming up we have a chance to win."